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■ News/A9

Palace rejects new round of wage hikes



Sports/A25 Rosales remains in third with one round left

Business / B2-1

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How not to fix the deficit crisis ■ Lifestyle / DI

What exactly is 'La Bayadere'



Fil-Am preaches honesty to fellow taxi drivers

By Jerome Aning

TAXI drivers should be courteous and honest at all times, because their behavior forms a big part of tourists' first and final impressions of the country.

"They are the first persons that foreigners meet upon arrival at the airport or seaport,

FIL-AM/A12

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph



Monday, September 6, 2004 ** 72 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 271 *** P18

not exactly voluntary C.R. MUNA was all smiles when he an-

MIDAIR/AI9



Discount offered to poor power

en the blow of the hefty power rate increase on the poor by giving them up to a 50-percent discount on their monthly electricity

But households and factories in Luzon will shoulder 94 percent of the power rate increase granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor).

The ERC granted Napocor on Saturday a provisional rate increase of an average 98 centavos per kilowatt-hour, half of the P1.87 per kWh that the utility firm had petitioned for in June.

Because of cross-subsidies, the rate adjustment will translate into an increase of P1.23 per kWh in Luzon, 22 centavos per kWh in the Visayas, and about 27 centavos in Mindanao.

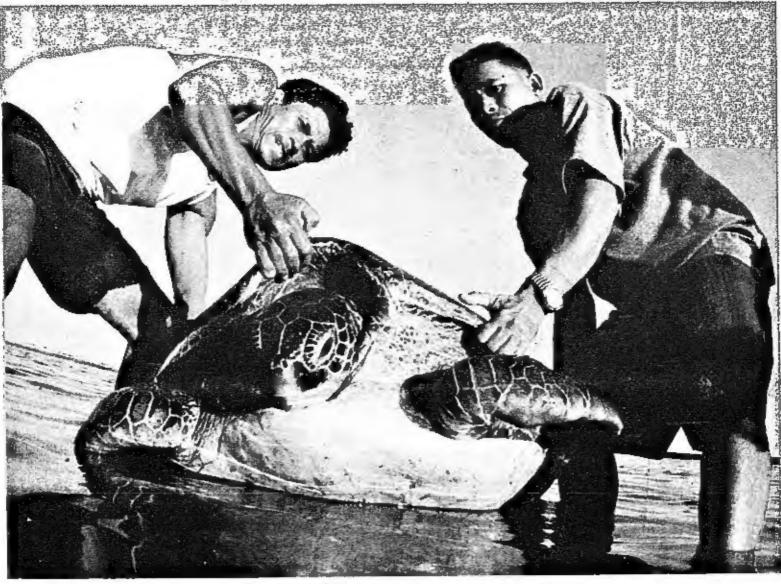
The increase, which Malacañang endorsed, would cut P33 billion from Napocor's projected P116-billion net loss in 2005 and reduce by P8 billion the consolidated public sector deficit of P312 billion this year.

Consumers in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao are expected to feel the increase in January 2005.

Consumer groups and other quickly assailed the power rate increase.

This afternoon, the Association of Concerned Commuters and Consumers (AC3) and other consumer groups in Cebu are scheduled to march on the Fuente Osmeña rotunda to protest the power rate increase.

Christian bloc joins consumers By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. MALACAÑANG is moving to soften the blow of the hefty power and the blow of the blow of



RESCUE MISSION

Fishermen rescue an endangered marine turtle, weighing over 100 kilos, which was trapped in a fishpen in the waters off Sitio Bagacay, DISCOUNT/ A22 Barangay Tayud, Consolacion town in northern Cebu. The turtle is expected to be released into the open sea today. TONE DESIGNORE NEWS

Senate, House lawmakers feast on pork barrel

By Yvonne T. Chua and Booma B. Cruz

Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

(First of two parts)

IN THEORY and in law, the legislators' role in pork barrel allocations remains limited to "consultation" to enable them to recommend priority projects. In practice, however, they have the final

This setup makes legislators funds required. the lords of pork barrel funds. It also makes them natural magnets to contractors and suppliers who offer bribes so they can sell their goods and services.

The release of pork is based on the lawmakers' request to the Department of Budget and Management, detailing the nature and lo-

word on what projects should be cation of the project they want, the implementing agency and the

> No one knows exactly how much is lost to corruption in porkfunded projects. A longtime politician from the North, who admits to accepting "small commissions," says that in a year, corruption in pork barrel projects translates to about P12 billion in losses to the government.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. gave his own estimate on how much the

government loses to wrongdoing. In a speech seeking to rally his colleagues' support for the procurement reform bill, Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, said P21 billion-or a fifth of the government's P104billion procurement budget in

2001-went to the pockets of leg-

In May 2002, Camarines Sur islators, officials and contractors alone.

The amount lost is about half of the 2002 budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways, and bigger than the budgets of state universities and colleges (P16.8 billion) the Department of Transportation and Communication (P13.3 billion), and the Department of Health (P11.8 billion).

23,000 churches mobilized

By Blanche S, Rivera and Christine O. Avendaño

NOW ADD the non-Catholic Christian bloc to the growing list of groups and individuals donating to the Bayanihan Fund, which seeks to help the government ease the fiscal crisis.

The Council of Christian Bishops of the Philippines (CCBP), an organization composed mainly of supporters of defeated presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, has agreed to pass a "second offering" in all services in their churches for the Bayanihan Fund.

The leaders of the council came up with the decision at a meeting on Friday night to discuss the fiscal crisis and how the churches could help.

The CCBP has around 23,000 member-churches all over the country, including the Jesus is Lord Church Worldwide of Villanueva. Magbanus claimed these churches represent around eight million Christians.

This is one time that the Church and government should do something to stop the crisis, like the Pondo ng Pinoy of (Manila) Archbishop (Gaudencio) Rosales," CCBP chair Fred Magbanua said.

Rosales had encouraged all Catholics to set aside 25 centavos daily for the Pondo ng Pinoy, a community foundation that will support projects of nongovernment organizations and provide the people with an alternative to entrusting their welfare to politicians.

To help the government address the fiscal crisis, businessmen, legislators and ordinary citizens are contributing to the CHRISTIAN/A21

Putin vows tough response to terrorists' war

BESLAN, Russia-Wails of mourning echoed through the streets of this southern Russian town on Sunday, and the region's interior minister resigned in the wake of the school hostage-taking that left more than 350 people-nearly half of them children-dead.

A shaken President Vladimir Putin on Saturday went on national television to make a rare and candid admission of Russian weakness in the face of an "all-out war" by terrorists. He urged the Russian people to mobilize against terrorism even as he promised wideranging reforms to toughen security forces and purge corrupt officials. (Related stories in The World, Page A10.)

"We showed weakness, and weak people are beaten," Putin said in a speech aimed at addressing the grief, shock and anger felt by many after a string of terrorist attacks that had killed some 450 people in the past two weeks in connection with the war in Chechnya.

Dozens of men dug graves in a football field-sized tract next to the Beslan cemetery on Sunday morning, while surveyors across the road marked out new plots with wooden stakes and string. Coffin lids stood outside the entrances to apartment buildings, along with wooden planks bearing the names of victims who were to be buried in funerals beginning later Sunday. Wailing could be heard from



EMERGENCY workers collect corpses outside a school in Beslan, North Ossetia. More than 350 people, nearly half of

them children, died during a terrorist attack on the school.

Poor own more than bird houses in Sin Village

By Blanche S. Rivera

BESSIE Cortez, a laundrywoman from Sta. Ana, Manila, would have settled for a bird house as long as she could call it her own.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, her heart swelled when she saw the 24-square-meter studio at the Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Manila, that would soon be her family's home.

Cortez is one of the first 84 recipients of units inside the housing compound that is being built in honor of retired Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Sin, who celebrated his 76th birthday on that day, blessed the completed units in a simple ceremony. Although wheelchair-bound, the cardinal personally distributed the certificates of occupancy to the first batch of home-

The three-story building is one of six being built on the two-hectare property on E Manalo Street in Sta. Ana. When finished, the compound will have 504 units, including a school, clinic and small chapel.

Speaking in Filipino, Cortez told the Inquin-

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IILITARY-ABU SAYYAF COLLUSION

Captain's testimony raises issue anew

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ALLEGED collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf Group in the controversial escape of several bandits in the 2001 siege in Lamitan, Basilan, has surfaced anew following the testimony of a military intelligence captain in defense of an Abu Sayyaf bandit in court.

An official of the Department of Justice, who asked not to be identified, said Capt, C.J. Paolo Perez of the Military Intelligence Group had testified in February in defense of Guillermo Wahid Galcedo, alias Abu Urban, one of the principal accused in the Lamitan kidnapping.

Perez's testimony puzzled the DOJ which is investigating the alleged collusion and has yet to release its report on the matter.

The source, a member of the prosecution team based in Manila, said that although Perez had testified in February, his testimony was noticed only when the decision on the

have been "so audacious" as to testify in court if he did not have the support of some of his superiors.

"This is the first time I encountered something like this, considering the military's strong statements about its allout war against terrorism. It's very hard to understand from a legal point of view," the official said.

Perez wanted Salcedo acquitted because the bandit was a military deep penetration agent (DPA) whom Perez had handled.

The squrce said that prosecutors had noticed that many arrested Abu Sayyaf members had claimed they were military

about the alleged collusion.

That is where this is leading While Gracia Burnham said she had no personal knowledge (of collusion), these isolated things, I think, would again open up (the issue)," the source said.

Salcedo was one of the 19 bandits convicted in the kidnapping of nurse Ediborah Yap and three other hospital workers in Lamitan in June 2001.

Perez allegedly even tried to convince witnesses not to testify against the bandits. He also wanted to testify in behalf of Kamar Jaafar, alias Abu Jude, another alleged military agent, but was not able to do so.

"It was really very disappointing to see a military officer losing his sanity and testifying for the other side. We don't know where his loyalty is," said State Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron, the fiscal who handled the case.

Perez made a deal with the enemy," he added.

Cabaron said Perez also tried to convince former hostages Reina Malonzo, Sheila Tabunyag and Joel Guilo not to testify against Salcedo and Jaafar.

Perez testified before the Basilan court on Feb. 17 that Salcedo had been recruited by the 34th Military Intelligence Co. in January 2000 although the bandit already had a pending warrant of arrest for kidnapping.

He said that Salcedo provided them with information that led to the arrest or killing of some Abu Savvaf bandits and the escape of some hostages. To prove that he was a military agent, Salcedo presented in court his Agent's Agreement/Contract, which he had supposedly signed before Perez. on Feb. 15, 2000.

Despite Perez's testimony, Basi-

Salcedo, Jaafar and 17 others on nesses also saw Salcedo join the Aug. 13 for the Lamitan kidnapping and sentenced them to death.

The Inquirer source said that if Jaafar and Salcedo were really "military assets" and Perez wanted them excluded from the charge sheet, he could have approached the DQJ and asked to make them state witnesses.

Cabaron cross-examined Perez and asked him if he knew that what he was doing was "treasonous."

The captain allegedly said that he believed that he was "doing more justice" in testifying for Salcedo.

In his landmark 47-page decision, Judge Bucoy also dismissed Perez's defense of his agent.

"This court is not convinced by the testimony of Captain Perez. For while it may be true that (Salcedo) had indeed passed information to the military, it does not follow that he was all-out for the military and against the ASG," Bucoy said.

The judge also said that wit-

Abu Sayyaf "striking force."

As this developed, the sister of Aldam Tilao, alias Abu Sabaya, the late ASG spokesperson, denied allegations she had been involved in the kidnappings perpetrated by the bandit group.

"I am innocent, the only crime I know is being a sister of Sabaya," Satra Abdulaup Tilao (not Tillah as earlier reported) said in an interview at the Basilan provincial police jail.

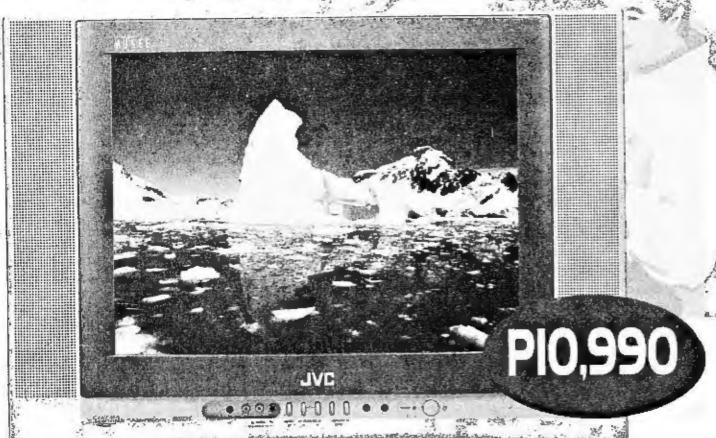
Sabaya was killed in a botched operation in Zamboanga del Norte in 2002.

Former hostage Sheila Tabunyag claimed that after their release in Sumisip town, they were brought to Satra's house in Barangay Tabuk in Isabela City, Basilan.

But Satra said she even spent P500 to feed the hostages and bring them to Zamboanga City.

With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau





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SATRA ABDULAUP Tilao, the late Abu Sabaya's elder sister, sits behind bars in Basilan awaiting transfer to Manila to face charges of

involvement in the Abu Sayyaf's illegal activities. (See story above) AFF

Forgotten hostage's family seeks help for his release

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FORGOTTEN military intelligence officer has been in the hands of the New People's Army exactly 1,096 days today.

No one seems to be looking for Army Sgt. Jeremias Rosete, save for his family who's been grieving since he and his three civilian "assets" were captured in Barangay Datal Blao in Columbio town, Sultan Kudarat, on Sept. 4, 2001.

Communist guerrillas seized Rosete, including Herminia Sorongon, Wilfredo Maldecir and Pepito Simbulan, on the suspicion that they were spying on the NPA unit based in the area.

Rosete was then assigned with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

No action, no salary

His 18-year-old daughter Rosemarie on Friday sought the help of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption. She and her family were distressed over the alleged lack of government action and the AFP's decision to stop releasing his monthly salary three months ago.

"What could be worse than authorities ignoring a missing loved one and even cutting off his salary?" VACC chair Dante Jimenez told the INDUIRER in a telephone interview. "He's been missing for three years, yet nobody's looking for him."

As it was, Jimenez said, Rosete's P15,000 monthly salary was hardly enough to support his wife Aida and their two daughters, Rosemarie, and 21-year-old Cathrene. They live in Cabattan, Isabela.

'Unfair'

Quoting Rosemarie, Jimenez said the family felt it was unfair for the Arroyo administration to

work on the release of two Army officers last month while ignoring another captive officer.

The government secured the release of Army Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino and Pfc. Ronel Nemeño, nearly six months after they were captured by the NPA's Romulo Jailores Command in Camarines Sur.

The release was the culmination of a series of negotiations between Silvestre Bello III, chief government negotiator in the peace process, and Luis Jalandoni, his counterpart in the National Democratic Front.

Bello yesterday said there had been a similar effort to free Rosete shortly after he and his group were captured.

Bogged down

But he said negotiations bogged down after then Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes refused to grant the NPA's demand for a suspension of police and military operations in South and North Cotobato, Sultan Kudarat and Dayao del Sur.

During negotiations on the release of Fidelino and Nemeño, Jalandoni explained that the suspension of operations was not actually a precondition but a standard operating procedure so the NPA could safely transfer a captive to his family.

Bello said he had asked Jalandoni to grant the release of Rosete with no conditions.

"I asked him if he could consider releasing the officer," the chief government negotiator said. "He said he would verify if he's (Rosete) still with the NPA or if he had already joined the movement."

Bello was not expecting a complicated negotiation, after the government's and the NDF's experience in the case of Fidelino and Nemeño.

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PER DTI-NOR PERMIT NO.1881 SERIES OF 2004

'Leave the apos, yayas alone'

President Macapagal-Arroyo's detractors not to begrudge the First Family its "vacation" in China, particularly the inclusion of her grandchildren and their nannies in the official party to the state visit.

"Let us not begrudge the First Family for being with the President since an official invitation was extended to them," said Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas, Cebu City) in a statement.

Cuenco was reacting to criticism that Ms Arroyo's daughters-in-law, granddaughters and their yayas had come along on the trip just after the President had ordered all government offices to adopt austerity measures to avert a fiscal crisis.

Cuenco said the members of the First Family had been invited by their Chinese hosts. "They acted as ambassadors of goodwill for the Filipino people," he said.

In the same statement, Rep. Lorna Silverio (Lakas, Bulacan) said that members of the First Family were "also human, with a hardworking President who deserves to spend precious time with them."

"The President has not been remiss in her abroad," Roman said.

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HER ALLIES in Congress yesterday asked duties and in the next six years, her vacations with her family will be a precious few and far between," Silverio said.

Malacañang had deflected the criticism by stressing that no public funds were spent for the trip of the First Family.

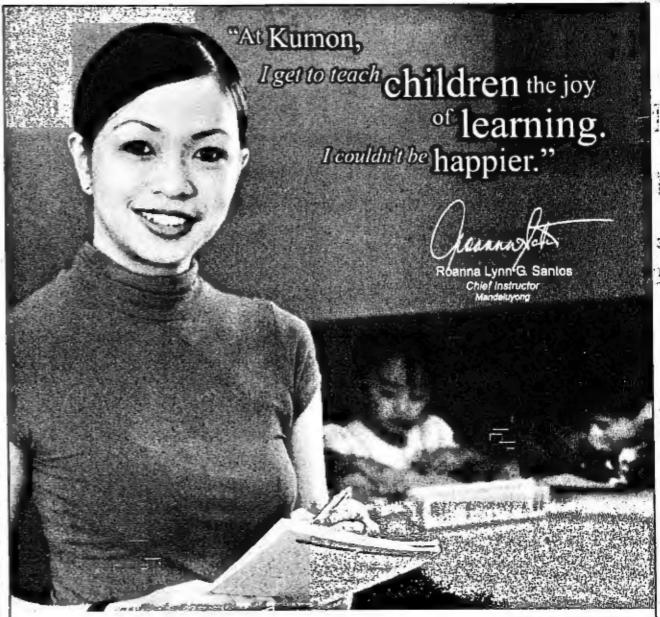
They had been invited by the Chinese government which took care of all their expenses, the Palace said.

According to Cuenco and Silverio, President Arroyo's China trip paid off handsomely and went a long way in strengthening the ties between the two countries.

They noted that the trip yielded \$1 billion in loans and investments, among other bene-

In another statement, Rep. Antonino Roman (LP Bataan) pointed out that with the fund assistance commitment made by China during the President's trip, the \$400 million North Rail project will get under way.

"People who do not want the President and the country to succeed will always find fault in whatever she does instead of appreciating her for the fruitful products of her endeavors Carlito Pable



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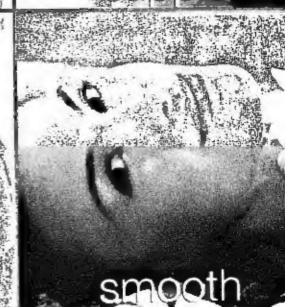
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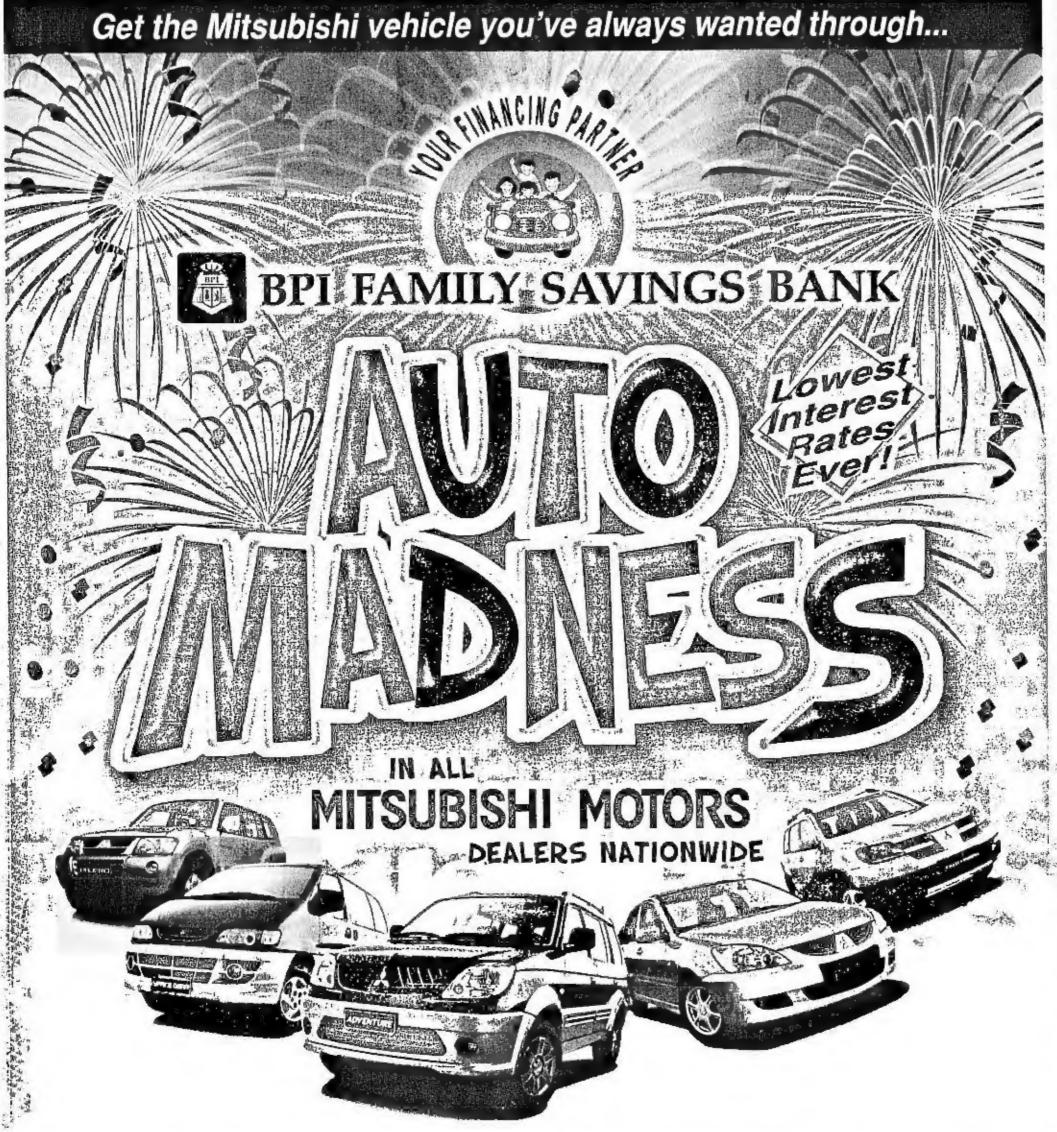
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2004 Lancar 1.8 GLX M/T	696,900	64,700	29,252	20,840	16,713	14,657	13,294
2004 Lancer 1.8 GLS CVT	758,000	58,700	31,767	22,632	18,149	15,917	14,437
2004 Lancar 1.6 MX CVT	638,000	85,700	35,120	25,020	20,065	17,597	15,961
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel M/T	675,000	81,250	28,289	20,154	16,162	14,174	12,656
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas M/T	700,000	85,000	29,338	20,900	16,760	14,699	12,332
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Dissel M/T*	749,000	58,000	31,913	22,094	17,718	15,539	14,094
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.9 Gas M/T	795,000	70,250	33,318	23,737	19,035	16,694	15,142
1004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	805,000	80,750	33,737	24,035	10,275	16,004	15,332
2004 Advanture GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	848,000	107,200	35,539	25,319	20,304	17,807	16,151
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesei M/T	935,900	105,250	30,185	27,917	22,387	19,634	17,808
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.9 Gas A/T	980,000	127,000	41,071	29,200	23,465	20,579	18,865
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas A/T	1,180,000	87,090	48,511	34,561	27,715	24,307	22,254
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD AT	1,280,900	77,000	53,643	38,217	30,648	26,879	

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2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T	098,000	319,000	16,224	11,550	9,260	8,128	7,590
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	750,000	341,000	17,619	12,552	10,006	8,026	8,243
2004 Lancer 1.8 MX CVT	838,000	389,000	19,478	13,877	11,128	9,760	0,113
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesei M/T**	675,000	337,500	15,701	11,186	8,970	7,807	7,123
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gae M/T**	700,000	350,000	10,317	11,625	9,323	8,176	7,403
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T*	740,000	337,000	17,200	12,254	9,827	8,618	0,047
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gee M/T	795.000	377,500	18,479	13,165	10,557	9,259	6,546
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	805,000	382,500	18,711	13,330	19,690	9,378	8,75
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T**	548,009	424,000	19,956	14,224	11,407	10,004	9,06
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel MfT	935,000	447,500	21,733	15,483	12,416	10,850	10,10
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.9 Gas AJT™	980,000	490,000	23,220	16,543	13,266	11,635	10,54
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas After	1,160,000	590,000	24,583***	17,319	13,880	12,101	11,11
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AVID A/T	1,260,000	535,000	29,752	21,195	10,998	14,906	13,91

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forcement Agency Undersecretary and Director General Anselmo S. Avenido Jr. yesterday announced a major reshuffle in the agenstrengthen the war against illegal drugs.

Avenido said the reassignment of key personnel took effect on Sept, 4 and affected six regional offices and two national staff services.

Given new assignments as directors of the respective regional offices were Senior Supt. Donardo I. Torres, Regional Office II; Supt. Abe L. Lemos, Regional Office IV-A (Calabarzon); Supt. Carlos E. Salazar, Regional Of-IV-B maropa); Rolen D. Balquin, Regional Office VI; Supt. Amado E. Marquez, Regional Office VII and Supt. Jane A. Aunzo, Regional Office ARMM.

Given new posts in two national staff services were Supt. Roybel M. Sanchez as director, International Cooperation and Foreign Affairs Service and Supt. Rolando G. Rama, director, Logistics Management Ser-

Also given new posts were Supt. Lazaro R. Toroita, special assignment, Office of the Deputy Director for Operations; Supt. Wesley A. Barayuga, assistant director, Legal and Prosecution Service; Supt. Edgardo L. Perez, assistant director for administration, Special Enforcement Service; Supr. Gustavo T. Torres, assistant regional director for administration, gional Office IVB (Mimaropa) and Chief Insp. Eduardo A. Quiocho, assistant director, Public Information Office.

Avenido said the reassignments were also aimed at famillarizing key personnel with the functions of the different PDEA offices and equipping them with the expertise to better fight the drug menace.

Avenido, meanwhile, vowed to ferret out scalawags in the agency. He said he "will not hesitate to fire and file criminal charges against any erring PDEA personnel."

At the same time, he belied recent reports claiming that the country was fast becoming an ex-porter of prohibited drugs.

He said records obtained from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) showed otherwise. Nelson E Flores

Meet reset

DUE TO technical difficulties, workshop on Crisis Management scheduled to begin today at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati City has been postponed to Oct. 11 to 12.

The workshop is being held under the auspices of Nova-X Solutions, a busiintelligence provider of niche markets.

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Cops to receive free medical, legal aid

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

AFTER the threat comes the treat.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay yesterday promised to give free health and legal services to policemen, even as he repeated his warning against corrupt and lazy cops.

The promise was made during an award ceremony for 18 Central Police District policemen at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City attended by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte and more than 1,600 cops.

Aglipay said he would be able to deliver the free services despite the government's current austeri-

He told the Inquirer the PNP has

would be given the rank of captain. These doctor-cops would be deployed to the provinces to provide free medical checkups to policemen.

And since police officials have been eating crackers and "economeals" during meetings, the savings would be used to provide free medicines to them.

Free legal services would be also provided by at least 50 lawyers, whom Aglipay would be swearing

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Correction

IN THE Sept. 1 issue, the banner headline of the Sports section on Page A25 misstated the prize money that Efren "Bata" Reyes won in a 9-ball tournament held recently in Metro Manila. Reyes won P1.1 million-not P1.1.

Manager at L

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Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Dally Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Rocus Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquir-encom.ph and daydesic@inquirencom.ph. Compitaints about lack of farmes or objectivity may be sent to Real Poirsbeiou, prodess' advante the same address Raul Painbries, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and s-mail address-palabrics@inquirescom.ph.

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Reyes cites honest cop

A 4 54 1840 1 1844 - 1

By Natson F. Flores

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes has recommended for promotion a policeman who returned P470,000 to a retired soldler who had lost the money at the Zamboanga City airport on Wednesday.

Reyes said the honesty demonstrated by PO2 Joseph de la Cruz in returning the cash to Army 2Lz.

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Frederick Villamor (ret.) was a "shining example that honest lawmen abound in the Philippine National Police."

W. Mark, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

MONDAY,

In directing PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay to promote De la Cruz to the next rank, Reyes said that while other lawmen may have given in to temptation. De la Cruz "opted to do the right thing."

Villamor had left his video

camera bag containing his retirement pay in the X-ray machine at the Zamboanga International Airport while he was about to board a flight to Manila.

Villamor came back for his bag which was promptly returned by De la Cruz. He tried to give the policeman a reward but De la Cruz refused to accept it.

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For 1st time, Japan may hire RP nurses

Julye also cited the

Filipinos' assertive-

ness as a factor.

IN A RARE opening of HK\$3,270 monthly. its labor market to foreigners, Japan plans to accept up to 200 Filipino nurses and caregivers for the elderly, a report said Sunday.

The liberalization of labor markets is a focal point in Japan's negotiations with the Philippines on concluding a free trade

agreement (FTA). A draft plan by the Japanese health and labor ministry envisages educating selected Filipino nurses and caregivers in the Japanese language and culture in their home country for up to one year, the Mainichi Shimbun said.

They would then be invited to Japan for training on-the-job and to study for national examinations to obtain formal licenses, the daily said, adding that they would be sent home if they failed the exams.

It would be the first time that Japan would accept foreign workers as part of an FTA.

Japan and the Philippines are to hold a fourth round of FTA talks in Tokyo for three days from Monday.

Meanwhile, Filipino domestic workers could lose their dominance of the Hong Kong market to Indonesian workers, a labor attaché warned Sunday.

Hong Kong-based Filipino labor attaché Bernardino Julve said the number of Filipino maids sent to Hong Kong fell from 155,470 in 2001 to 123,189 in 2003.

Julve said this was partly due to the economic slowdown in Hong Kong and the outbreak of the Severe Acure Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003.

He said domestic workers from Indonesia were becoming more attractive to Hong Kong employers because of the training these workers receive before being sent abroad.

Other nationalities, he said, were also willing to work for wages lower than the minimum

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ety while the Chinese. with their Confucian values, value discipline, order and hierarchy," he said. AFP;

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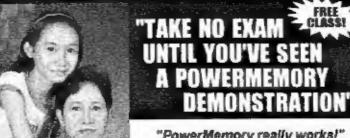




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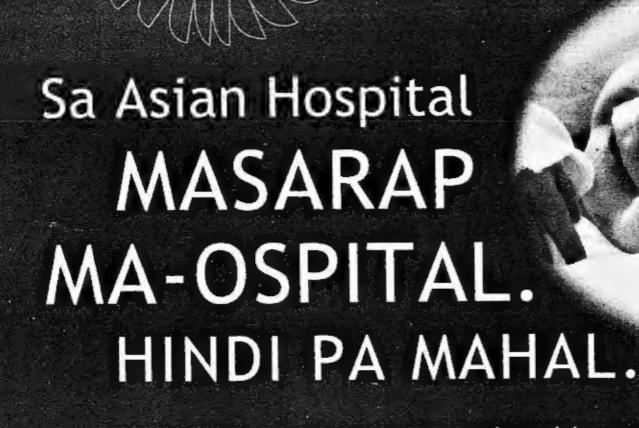
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and mayors in the province said that since Pampanga is prone to disasters, more funds should be alloted to the provincial, municipal. and city governments to allow them to better serve their populace.

Lapid said these measures ranged from orgardzing barangay disaster coordinating councils, installing monitoring systems and upgrading bridges and roads.

Malacañang earlier announced plans to reduce the IRA of Local Government Units by P35 billion to avert a financial crisis, but this has been strongly resisted by local executives and LGUs who fear that delivery of basic services would be badly affected.

The IRA is the tax share of LGUs, which get 40 centavos of every peso in taxes collected by the government.

TO PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY STATES OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

This year, Pampanga's IRA is P609.56 million. Some parts of Pampanga and Tarlac were inundated as a result of monsoon rains induced by Typhoons Marce and Chaba. In Pampanga, 151 of the province's 507 villages remained under one to eight feet of water, the latest report from the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council showed.

Lapid said the lingering floods, the extent of damage and the loss of lives indicated the need to do instigate flood-mitigating efforts. Expenditures in health care also increased, he said.

Lapid said the province's 20-percent development fund and 5-percent calamity fund were not enough to fund efforts to lessen the impact of floods.

In Boilo City, local councilors are spearheading a vincewide campaign against Malacañang's EDUCATIONAL LOAN ABENTS WELCOME plan to cut the IRA.

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Lawyer Joseph Anthony Lutero, secretary general of the Iloilo chapter of the Philippine Councilors League, said they would discuss the issue with their 432 members in the

province's 42 municipalities. The group has launched a signature campaign against the plan, which it said would cripple the operations of LGUs whose resources are

mostly dependent on their IRA share. "We want to send the strongest message possible to our national government that this will be disastrous to LGUs," said Lutero.

In Naga City, the Naga City Council approved a resolution secking a legal remedy against the planned IRA cut.

We are intending to file a formal case against parties concerned in this IRA issue," Vice Mayor Gabriel Bordado told the INQUIRER, referring to Ms Arroyo, Albay Rep. Joey Salce-

da and other proponents of the measure. When contacted by the Inquirer, city legal counsel Nelson Legacion said the case would be filed in the Supreme Court.

Citing SC rulings, Bordado said cutting the IRA of LGUs was against the spirit of the Local Government Code.

"We are appealing to other officials to join hands because it is not only Naga and Camarines Sur, but also all LGUs (will be affected)," he said.

In Tacloban City, an official of the Department of Interior and Local Government has recommended that income classifications among LGUs be used as a basis for reducing their IRA.

William Paler, DILG regional director, believed it would be "reasonable" if reductions in the IRA would correspond to the income classification of the LGUs. For example, he said, LGUs in the first, second and third income brackets could have their IRA shares reduced while those in the fourth, fifth and sixth classes must be spared for the meantime. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Nestor R Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau



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2002	74%	28%	44%		
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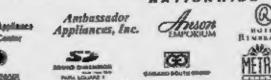
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Be grateful you have jobs, Palace tells raise-seekers

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

WORKERS should be thankful they are employed and should not risk losing their jobs by asking for a raise.

This was Malacañang's advice to labor groups demanding a P125 across-the-board pay hike in the wake of rising oil prices, power rates and the cost of basic commodities.

"We sympathize with our workers but I think this kind of petition is untimely. Most companies are not doing well and we are in a difficult economic condition," said Press Secretary Ignaclo Bunye in an interview over RMN radio.

Workers renewed their call for higher wages a few days after the National Economic and Development Authority presented robust economic figures for the first half of the year with the gross domestic product (GDP)-which measures the value of all goods and services produced in the country-rising by 6.3 percent.

"I think what is more important is for our countrymen to maintain their present jobs because the alternative is for some companies to close shop if they insist on a wage hike," Bunye said.

The country's unemployment rate had soared to record-level highs during the first three years of the Arroyo administration, although President Macapagal-Arroyo repeatedly claimed she had created an average of one million jobs a year during that period.

Tutors warned against taking protest to House

THE PARTY-LIST group Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE) yesterday warned teachers against pushing through with their planned protest in front of the House of Representatives this week to press for a salary increase,

saying this would be untimely.

AVE Rep. Eulogio "Amang" Magsaysay said such an action would only besmirch the im-

"Let us not be swayed by our emotions," Magsaysay said. "Some sectors might only be using us to further bring the government to its

Several teachers' groups had called for pay increases to meet the rising costs of living due to the fiscal crisis.

While he recognized the teachers' right to stage a rally or organize peaceful assemblies, Magsaysay said a protest at this critical period could do more harm than good. The country would be placed in a precarious situation if shaken by massive protests, he

He assured teachers that his group has been working on a legislative measure which would grant them higher wages and non-Cynthia D. Balana wage benefits.











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Arab world shocked by school siege

Backlash against Islam, followers feared

CAIRO, Egypt -Images of dead, wounded and traumatized Russian children being carried from the scene of a rebel school siege horrified Middle Eastern Muslims, prompting forthright self-criticism Saturday and fresh concern about an international backlash against Islam and its followers.

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Arab leaders, Muslim clerics and ordinary parents across the Middle East denounced the school siege that left more than 340 peopie dead, many of them children, as unjustifiable. Some warned such actions damage Islam's image more than all its enemies could hope. Even some supporters of Islamic militancy condemned it, though at least one insisted Muslims were not behind it.

"Holy warriors" from the Middle East long have supported fellow Muslims fighting in Chechnya, and Russian officials said nine or 10 Arabs were among militants killed when commandos stormed the Beslan school in southern Russia on Friday to end a siege that began Wednesday by rebels demanding Chechen independence.

Middle East security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was too early to know the nationalities of the Arabs among the dead militants. However, a prominent Arab journalist wrote that Muslims must acknowledge the painful fact that Muslims are the main perpetrators of terrorism.

"Our terrorist sons are an endproduct of our corrupted culture," Abdulrahman al-Rashed, general manager of Al-Arabiya



EMERGENCY workers clean up the destroyed sport hall of the crisis-torn school in Beslan, North Ossetia.

television, wrote in his daily column published in the pan-Arab Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper. It ran under the headline, "The Painful Truth: All the World Terrorists are Muslims!"

Al-Rashed ran through a list of recent attacks by Islamic extremist groups-in Russia, Iraq, Su-Saudi Arabia and Yemen-many of which are influ-

enced by the ideology of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born leader of the al-Oaida terror network.

"Most perpetrators of suicide painful and harsh for all of us." operations in buses, schools and residential buildings around the world for the past 10 years have been Muslims," he wrote. Muslims will be unable to cleanse their image unless "we admit the scandalous facts," rather than of-

fer condemnations or justifica-

"The picture is humiliating,

Arab TV stations repeatedly aired footage of terrified young survivors being carried from the school siege scene, while pictures of dead and wounded children ran on front pages of Saturday's

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Russia has history of using brute force in previous hostage crises

By Dmitry Zaks

MOSCOW-Russia has been struck by a series of major hostage crises over the past decade as separatists from Chechnya resort to extreme measures in their fight. In each case, Moscow chose brute force over talks.

The tactic was first adopted by separatists who appeared to have the support of the Chechen people in the first Chechen war between 1994-96. It has now been adopted by fringe extremists who represent the interest of a specific clan.

But Moscow's refusal to negotiate-at least not on the spot-has been consistent and its use of force despite the threat of killing the hostages is unnerving to some Western states.

Militants demanding the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic seized a Russian school last Wednesday and after a three-day standoff a brutal six-hour battle ensued.

It was set off by still unexplained explosions that prompted Russian special forces to attack. The death toll stands at 330 people-half of them children—and is growing.

The following is a review of the other three major hostage crises to hit Russia.

 June 1995: Budyuonnovsk hospital. 1,500 hostages. 150 killed.

Six months into the first Chechen campaign, a well-armed band led by then still unknown field commander Shamil Basayev—now Moscow's public enemy number one—stunned Russia when they slipped out of Chechnya and crossed southern Russia to seize a hospital in the region of

He let in television crews and ordered the Kremlin to sue for peace and pull out its troops. Then president Boris Yeltsin was attending an overseas summit and authorities in Moscow were scrambling for a response as the world watched.

Eventually its troops opened fire on the building even while the patients were waving white pieces of cloth out of the windows in hope they would not be attacked.

Some 150 people-most of them patients-were killed in the battles and it was believed that the large majority died from Russian bullets.

Basayev's men were then given safe passage back to Chechnya and Moscow for the first time agreed to

 January 1996: Kizlyar hospital. 2,000 hostages. Up to 100 killed.

Gunmen crossed into the neighboring republic of Dagestan to seize a hospital there as war continued unabated.

from Budyonnovsk and offered the rebels 11 buses to return back to Chechnya. They took 100 hostages with them to guarantee a safe return. But the Russian troops attacked

Russia appeared to learn its lesson

the convoy with morter and rocket fire when they reached the Chechen village of Pervomayskaya—risking the hostages' lives. A brutal battle ensued in terrible win-

ter weather condition. The rebels managed to escape. Between 50 and 100 people were killed. Western reports said Russian troops were shooting at each other after encircling the convoy amid fog and poor communications.

 October 2002: Moscow's Dubrovka theater, 800 hostages, 129 spectators and 41 hostage takers killed.

Rebels struck the heart of Moscow when a group of 41 Chechens stormed a theater stage during the performance of a musical. They included female suicide bombers and the rebel leader placed a large bomb in the center of the hall.

They demanded peace in Chechnya and again made the war-torn region-and President Vladlmir Putin's inability to resolve the conflict—the focus of world attention.

Putin spent 57 agonizing hours weighing his choices

before deciding to pump a lethal gas into the theater, thus knocking unconscious the hostage-takers-and the theater goers-before crack troops stormed in.

The troops shot dead each of the rebels point blank. But 129 people died as well from a lethal opiate whose exact makeup Russia refused to reveal despite repeated requests from the West.

Putin also came in for criticism because most of the victims died on their way to hospital and doctors-since the makeup of the gas was considered a state secret-did not know which antidote to use to revive the civilians.

Putin said Russia would only press on with the Chechen campaign harder and accused the rebels of being a part of an international terror network-now his favored defense of the campaign. AFP



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REVISED SCHEDULE ON DIVIDEND COMPUTATION, DIVIDEND PAYOUT AND CCA PLACEMENT PERIOD

To comply with the directive of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas dated June 9, 2004, to pay dividends based on actual income earned as of date of declaration, the AFP Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) through Board Resolution No: 2004-008-1309 dated August 3, 2004 will adopt the quarterly computation of dividend and quarterly dividend payout effective third quarter of year 2004. Relatedly, the CCA (formerly CCS account) placement periods have been changed effective fourth quarter

PLACEMENT PERIOD	APPLICABLE QUARTER	DIVIDEND PAYOUT
June 1-17, 2004	3rd Quarter 2004 (June 17-September 14)	November 15, 2004
1st three working days of October 2004	4th Quarter 2004 (October -December)	February 15, 2005
1	ear 2005 onward	S
tet three working days of January	1st Coarter (January - March)	May 15
"1st three working days of April	2nd Quarter (April - June)	August 15
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1st three working days of July	3rd Quarter (July - September)	November 15

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Suicide bomb attack on Iraq police academy kills 20; blasts hit Baghdad

KIRKUK, Iraq—Municipal work-ers scrubbed blood off the street Police in Kirkuk and towed away gutted cars in this northern Iraqi city Sunday after a suicide car bombing against a police academy killed 20 people and wounded 36 others in the latest attack aimed at disrupting USbacked efforts to build a strong Iraqi security force.

Also Sunday, explosions and gunfire echoed through Baghdad and two helicopters hovered over the southern neighborhood where blasts apparently took place, witnesses said. A spokesperson for coalition forces in the capital and the Interior Ministry said they had no imme-

Police in Kirkuk decided to cancel a planned communal funeral for the victims Sunday out of fear it could be targeted by terrorists.

The explosion Saturday outside the academy went off as hundreds of trainees and civilians were leaving for the day, littering the street with bloodied bodies, charred cars, pieces of glass and twisted metal.

An investigation showed the suicide vehicle was packed with some 500 kilograms of explosives, Kirkuk police chief Gen. Torhan Abdul-Rahman Yousif said. There was no indication about who was behind the attack, which hospital

officials said claimed the lives of 20 people and injured 36 others.

The victims' relatives, however, denounced authorities Sunday for failing to boost security around the academy, saying leaflets bearing death threats against people working there were found scattered in the building two weeks ago.

"I saw one of my friends killed before my eyes. I couldn't do anything to help him," said Bassem Ali, a student at the academy who was hurt in the blast.

Insurgents see police as collaborators with US-led forces and are bent on disrupting American efforts to build a strong Iraqi security force ahead of January elections.

Militants have blown up police stations all over the country, gunned down officers in drive-by shootings and battered police recruitment centers with mortar barrages and rocket-propelled grenades--leaving.policemen increasingly terrified and deterring would-be recruits.

In another attack on police, insurgents fired mortar rounds at an fraqi police patrol, killing five officers and injuring 38 others, said Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman of the Interior Ministry on Sunday. The Saturday attack occurred between the towns of Mahmoudiya and Latifiyah, 40 kilometers from the capital. AP





from Hurricane Frances pound the Village of Ocean Breeze in Jensen

2nd hurricane in 3 weeks strikes Florida, cuts power

STUART, Florida-The center of weeks after Hurricane Charley the eye of Hurricane Frances struck Florida's east coast early hons of dollars in damage in Sunday with sustained wind of southwestern Florida. 170 kph and pelting rain, knocking out power to 2 million people and forcing Floridians to endure wind and water. Porecasters said a frightening right amid roaring the storm would dump 8-12 inches rooted trees.

The National Hurricane Center said the hurricane officially made landfall near Stuart, 175 kilometers north of Miami, about 1 a.m. Sunday, a day later than expected.

Transformers popped along streets, sending sparks into darkened skies, as families huddled in shelters, bathrooms and hotel lobbies. The wind-whipped coastal waters resembled a churning hot tub.

"I think I'm not going to sleep all night. I hate it at nighttime," said 64year-old Vonda Gould, an evacuee who braved the storm at a Palm Bay hotel, "We don't know when something's going to come flying through the window. It's very spooky."

In the largest evacuation in state history, some 2.8 million residents ordered inland, and 70,000 residents and tourists moved into sheaters.

The storm's slow-motion assault-Frances crawled toward Florida at just 11 kph-came more than a day later than predicted. The western portion of the hurricane's eye crept over parts of the east-central Florida coast Saturday night, but its strongest winds were expected to begin hitting early Sunday.

Earlier, the storm buffeted the Bahamas, killing two people. The storm shattered windows, toppled power lines and flooded neighborhoods in the Bahamas, driving thousands from their homes. The Freeport airport was partially submerged in water.

killed 27 people and caused bil-

Frances was so big that virtually the entire state feared damage from gales that shredded roofs and up- (20-30 cm) of rain, with up to 20 inches (50 cm) in some areas.

> In Washington, President George W. Bush declared a major disaster in the counties affected by Prances, meaning residents will be eligible for federal aid.

> Four people were hospitalized in Florida after breathing carbon monoxide fumes from a generator that was running in a house. No other uniuries were immediately reported.

> Some evacuees, frustrated by Frances' sluggish pace, decided to leave shelters Saturday and return later.

> Deborah Nicholas dashed home from a Fort Pierce shelter to take a shower, but stayed only a few minutes when the lights started flickering and trees began popping out of the ground. She has slept in a deck chair at a high school cafetena since Wednesday.

"I'm going stir crazy," Nicholas said. "I'm going to be in a straitjacket by Monday. I don't know how much longer I can take it. Have mercy."

Residents could take comfort that Frances weakened as it lingered off the coast. Forecasters downgraded it to a Category 2 hurricane as sustained winds receded, down from 233 kph earlier. But the heavy rain forecast still threatened to cause widespread flooding, and the outer bands of the storm packed plenty of punch.

Frances was expected to push across the state as a tropical storm just north of Tampa, weaken to a tropical depression and drench the Panhandle on Monday

Frances' arrival came three before moving into Alabama. AP Taiwanese man survives plunge but kills motorist

TAIPEI---A Taiwanese man sur- before emergency services could vived a suicide bid when he jumped off a 23-story building but killed a woman motorist when he landed on her car beneath, a report said Sunday.

The 44-year old, identified only by his surname Chang, leapt from the high-rise in southern Taman city Saturday noon, hitting the compact car which was parked outside, TVBS cable news network said.

Chang only suffered fractures to his feet, but the woman died

get her to hospital. Chang's mother apologized to the victim's grieving family.

"He (my son) wanted to die. He did not but the other person died," she told reporters, adding that her son had a 10-year record of manic depression.

The television station said the victim's family would seek millions of Taiwan dollars in damages while Chang may face AFP



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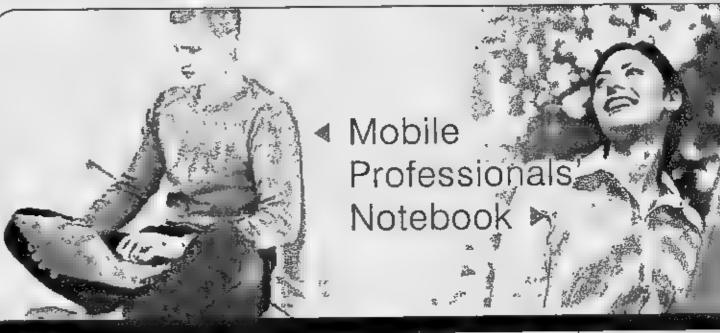
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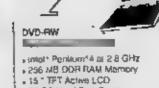
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PROGRAM

TIME Sept. 13 (Monday) 8:00 to 8:00 Pre-conference Linciume/Workshop

Mr Charles A. Aubroy II Six Sigma for Managers and Professionals Strategic HR Management for Global Compalitiveness

Sept. 14 (Tuesday) TIME

Registration 8:00 (6B:30) Opening of Exhibits Welcome Remarks 6:45 to 9.00 NOF Chairperson Kaynolo Address Mr. Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr.

Prosidential Advisor for Jobs Generation

9:30 to 10:00 Keynole Address Mr. Charles A. Aubrey II APOO Presiden 10:00to 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 to 11 15 2004 International Asia Pacific Quality Award Or James Harrington Mr Jose Contellet Pradu

11:15to 12:00 Theme: How is the World Caping with Globalization Excellence in Europa The Excellence Mode

Prof. Mohamed Zatre, UK 12:00to 1:00 1,unch/Enterterment Theme. Leasons Loarned Evolving Role of Quality and Transforming the Organization to Cope with the Chollenges of Globalization Dr. John Man, Singapore

2:00 to 3:00 Winning the 2004 Enterpreneur of the Year Awardee for Small Business (Figure Collee, Inc) Ms. Pacita Julin, Philippines

3:00 to 3:15 Collec Break
3:15 to 4:15 Introduction to Triz (Greative Thinking) Dr. Darrell Lee Mann, UK The Phytippines' Response to Globalization: Quality Human Relations Through the Employee Council Mr. Etray T. Ramos and

Mr. Roberto Sarrano Philippines

Moderator Ms Cynthia Cabasag Mr. Anjo Minos 6:00 cowards APOO Core Gouncil Meeting TIME Sept. 15 (Wednesday)

8:00 to 8:15 Registration / Viewing of Exhibits Recupal Cay 1 Ma. Victoria M. Valleniero

APOO Secretary General
8:30 to 9:15 Therms: Hurdling Resistance to Change Unilob's Journey Towards Transformation Mr. Carlon Ejercito, Philippines

9:15 to 10:15. The impact of Total Quality Management Principles on Corporele Performance Dr. Vined Singhal, USA 10:15 to 10:30 Coffee Break \$0:30 to 11/15 Managing Chonge St. Lukes Medical Center

Ma, Fe Corazon B. Ramos-Mult, Philippines

in the Asian Context Mr. Othoranismali, Malayala

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch / Enlorishment Number 1:00to 2:00 Thome! Moving Forward Firm Paters of Organizational Excellence Dr. James Herrington, USA

2:00 to 2:45 Presentation of Awards Walter L. Hurd Executive Medal Hammolon-Ishikuwa Modal APQQ President's Award Juran Medal Award

3:00(o4:20 GCafewith the CEOs Dr. James Harrington with the Awardees Moderator Ms. Lirio Ongpin-Mapa

4:30 to 4:45 Integration and Closing Remarks Ms. Ma. Toroga U. Bagaman

4:45tp 5:00 Raffle Moderator: Ms. Noly Cayabyab

Mr Gorardo Cabochan Jr

TIME Sept. 16 (Thursday)

8:00 to 5:00 Plant and Cultural Your

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Saddam henchman with \$10-M bounty on head captured

BAGHDAD, Iraq-Saddam Hussein's former right-hand man with a \$10-million bounty on his head, Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, was arrested in northern Iraq, an Iraqi defense ministry spokesperson told al-Hurra television on Sun-

Seventy people were killed or wounded in clashes between the Iraqi national guard and multants trying to prevent al-Douri's capture, an Iraqi official said

"He had many militants around him who tried to rescue him. Initial reports say there were around 70 people killed or wounded in these clashes," interior ministry spokesperson Col. Adnan Abdelrahman said.

The former vice president "was arrested by the Iraqi national guard in an area between Ad-Dawr and Tikrit. He was in a clinic having a blood transfusion because he had leukemia," he added.

Since Saddam was arrested close to Tikrit on Dec. 13, al-Doun had taken on the role of the Pentagon's most wanted man in Iraq. He was the highest-ranking member of Saddam's government still at large and regarded as the king of ctubs in the deck of cards.

US Maj. Neil O'Brien of the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division, however, 'said he could not confirm the report. A US Embassy spokesperson also said he had no information about an arrest.

"There was a major operation around Tikrit and Ad-Dawr and American forces supported by Iraqi civil defense corps members were able to capture Izzat al-Douri," defense ministry spokesperson Saleh Sarhan told the station in a live telephone interview.

Sarhan said al-Douri was now in the hands of the Americans.

Iraqi officials had mistakenly reported al-Doun's arrest several times before.

Late last year, al-Douri's wife and daughter were detained.

Earlier this year, US forces conducted numerous raids in and around the northern city of Samarra in search of al-Dourt, who they believed may have been behind the finding and orchestration of insurgent attacks against coalthon forces.

In January, American forces atrested four of al-Donri's nephews who they suspected were aiding in moving Saddam's former second-in-command to different locations to avoid capture. AP, AFP



PROFESSIONAL ROCK BREAKER

Five-year-old Rina breaks stones in Siliguri in this picture taken Sept. 2. Rina has been a professional rock breaker for a year, slaving six days a week in the sapping heat and humidity of West Bengai, Human rights groups estimate up to 115 million children—roughly twice the entire population of the United Kingdom-work for a living.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

1st Reading:

Gospel:



Monday, September 6, 2004

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

Lk 6:6-11 On another Subbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the reachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him. Would Jesus heal the man on

1 Cor 5:1-8

the Sabbath? If he did, they could accuse him. But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." Then he spoke to them, "I want to ask you: what is allowed by the Law on the Sabbath, to do good or to do harm, to save

life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Commentary "WE have fust enough religion to make us hate," said Jonathan Swift, "but not enough to make us love one another." If religion penetrates the head only, it will serve to divide people from one another, because left to itself that's what the head does best it makes distinctions and oppositions. To become a bond of unity religion has to enter the heart, but as they say, the journey from head to heart is the longest in the world. There must have been some Phartsees who had a heart, but apart from Nicodemus and Gamaliel we don't meet them in the New Testament. (And those two men were singularly ineffective.) The New Testament picture of the Pharisees is consistent with what is known of them from other sources. They watched Jesus closely to find fault with him, especially in the matter of healing on the Subbath, they tried to trap him with their questions, they were scandalized by his association with tax-collectors and sinners, they attributed his exorcisms to the devil, and they plotted to take his life All of this activity is the very apposite of religious, and yet it was the work

of a highly committed religious group. Religion brings out the best and the worst in people. This is very clear to us novadays. Many religious people are not worshipping God but themselves: there is no ego quite so poisonous as the religious one. It bends the language of religion to its own ends, and is quite indifferent to God. In the 17th century, Pascal could write, "Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction." The test, as always, is not what we say but what we do.

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FORMER President Bill Clinton and wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a July 26, 2004 photo.

Relaxed Clinton awaits surgery

NEW YORK—Former President his foundation, a spokesperson said. Bill Clinton was in good spirits Sat urday, walking around his hospital room in street clothes and buoyed by thousands of get-well messages as he awaited heart bypass surgery early this coming week, people close to the family said.

Clinton was expected to undergo surgery as early as Monday but probably Tuesday, said Democratic Party Chairman Terry McAuliffe, who said the former president was "uppeat" when he spoke to him by phone Friday.

"I thanked him for getting the Democrats back on the front page, and he told me that's about as far as he's willing to go," McAuliffe said Saturday, "I said I needed him out York on the campaign trail as soon as possible, and he said as soon as he recuperates he'll be ready to go."

He was to undergo triple or quadruple bypass surgery, according to a person close to Clinton who requested anonymity.

Clinton's wife and daughter visited him in the hospital Saturday, and he had received 15,000 get-well messages relayed from the website of

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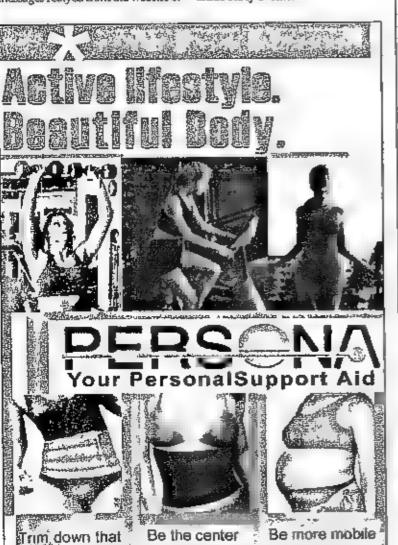
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One message posted on the website Saturday read: "I'm having an awfully hard time imagining anything big enough to block a heart as large and generous as yours, but I hope you have the best surgeons in the country working on it."

Another, from a self-described "Reagan Democrat" said: "While I did not vote for President Clinton, nor agreed with a lot of his points of view, I always liked him. ... In March of 2002, I underwent quad bypass surgery, so I know what he will be going through in the coming hours, days, and months. My prayers are with him."

Clinton was admitted to New Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia on Friday after suftering chest pains and shortness of breath.

The operation is likely to curtail his campaigning for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. Clinton had agreed to campaign for Kerry in the two months before the Nov. 2 general election and had already appeared at some Democratic Party events.



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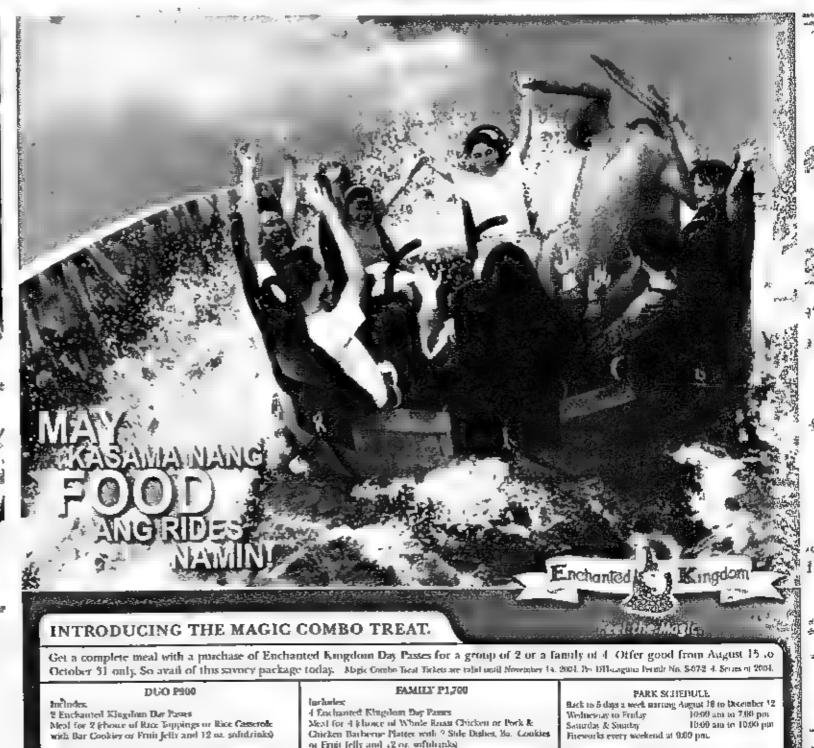
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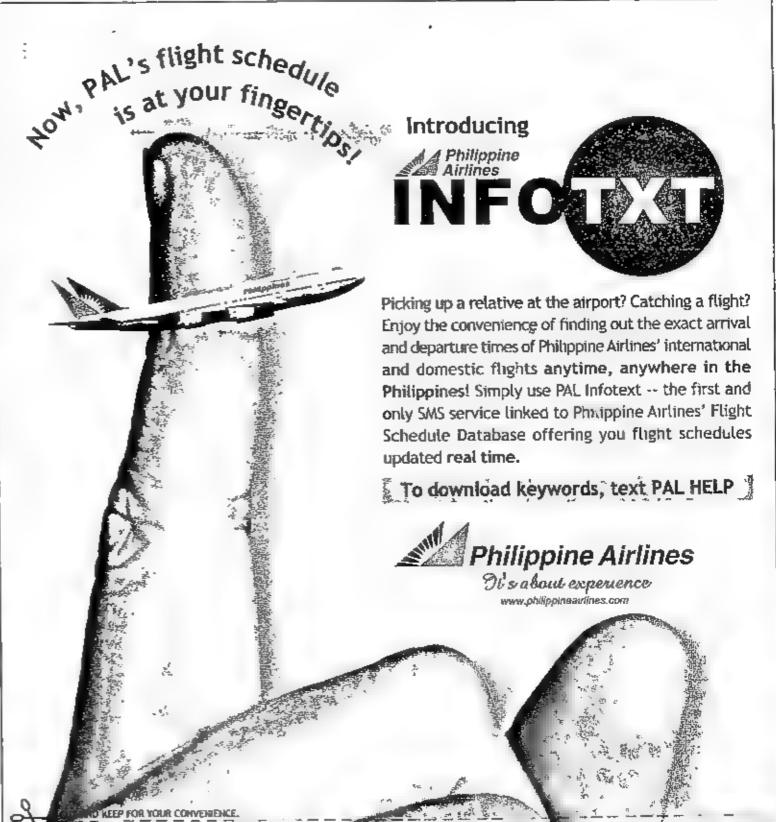
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Beyond the minimum

S columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan pointed out the other day, businessman Lance Gokongwei's position on the role of business in helping solve the fiscal crisis is the sensible one. "I rather subscribe to the argument of Lance Gokongwei, president of conglomerate JG Summit Corp., who opined that more than the symbolic gesture of donating cash, what

is more important is for big busi-EDITORIAL nesses to pay their taxes correctly," Cunanan wrote.

At the minimum, Gokongwei is surely right. Paying the right amount of taxes is the least that business firms can do. But is it enough?

There are many, and here we must include numerous businessmen, who think that the fiscal crisis can be solved if only the government gets its act together: that is to say, if new taxes are imposed, if tax collection is improved, if tax evaders are prosecuted, if unnecessary spending is curtailed, if the pork barrel is reduced. In this school of thought, the problem lies with the government precisely because it is a fiscal (not a financial or an economic) crisis. By the same token, the solution lies with the government too, including the use of its resources to force or to encourage companies to pay their taxes correctly.

But there is another school of thought. Many people have begun to think that, for the fiscal crisis to be resolved, extraordinary initiatives must be undertaken: donations to the so-called Bayanihan Fund, the setting aside of a few pesos' worth of text messages a day, energy conservation and other self-imposed austerity measures. In this line of thinking, the fiscal crisis is not simply the problem of the government's. By the same standard, the solution does not lie in the government's hands alone.

It is quite possible that the first approach to the problem would yield the right solution. The President's use of the word "crisis" to describe the government's deteriorating fiscal condition is based more on a political rather than a technical reading of the problem. Using a stricter definition, credit-rating agencies have declined to describe the government's situation as a crisis. In their view, the problem exists, but it has not reached crisis propor-

But if the first school of thought has the right idea, the central part of the solution remains the imposition of new # taxes. The government has proposed eight new tax measures; at least one needs to be passed within the year to convince its creditors and the same credit-rating agencies that what needs to be done is being done.

But it is precisely these new tax proposals that have met the most resistance, not only from the public but even from the administration's own senators. Sen. Ralph Recto, using the powerful metaphor of a leaking faucet to describe the government's fiscal state, proposes that the reduction in the pork barrel is substantial enough to eliminate the need for any new taxes. And Sen. Joker Arroyo believes Malacafiang has not adequately explained why the budget deficit has widened dramatically in the first three years of the Arroyo administration.

(Senator Arroyo's opposition has been unusually intemperate, even by the maverick senator's usual standards He has called Palace and budget officials "tax terrorists," and he insists-in a sort of a Philippine version of Zeno's paradox-that President Macapagal-Arroyo must first accept the blame for the fiscal crisis before she can solve it.)

It is precisely because of this resistance that the second approach to the fiscal crisis seems more and more necessary. There is real value in the amount of money that a Bayanihan Fund can accumulate; there are real savings from individual efforts to conserve energy. But the true significance of the second approach lies in its

participatory nature.

Getting the public to accept new taxes, or higher, market-determined electricity rates, is difficult enough when the old questions about corruption or tax avoidance or government waste continue to nag us. But if the rich are brought out of their comfort zone to donate a million here and there, if the middle class buys into the concept of "text donations" (as the jewelry-donating Silliman alumni now propose), if more and more people accept the inconveniences of austerity, then maybe public resistance to the new taxes may soften.

The second approach makes the first doable.



No right to hike taxes unless. . .

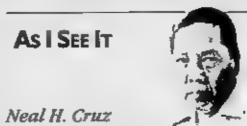
THE BAYANIHAN Fund, to which the people are asked to contribute, is one of the most idiotic ideas to bail the Arroyo administration out of the financial mess it put itself in. Begging for funds for funerals may be all right; but for a government to resort to it so the President's whole family-grandchildren and their nammes included-can go on a free vacation abroad is certainly not. Is this any indication that we are witnessing the funeral of the Arroyo administration?

"Bawal ang magpalimos at magbigay ng limos (Begging and giving alms are prohibited)," huge billboards warn beggars and good Samaritans alike. The proliferation of beggars here is giving us an unsavory image abroad as "a nation of beggars." Now the government itself is confirming that image by begging for contributions to the so-called Bayanihan Fund.

What will the rest of the world think of us? "That the situation is so bad that the business community must cough up with their private funds to bail out the government for its misspending of government money?" asked Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. What will the world's leaders think when they meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo and her retinue (she is going on four more state visits this year, which is astonishing for a country that is short of money).

"Tell me, how can you keep your head up high as a Filipino when you hear this government begging for donations to keep itself afloat?" asked former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez. For many years, we have worked to remove the image of the Philippines as the begging bowl of Asia. Now the government itself is nurruring this image. What is worst is that while Filipinos are willing to give, even small amounts, for the sake of the country, many are one in saying that they will not trust this government with this money. Even the ordinary man on the street says this govemment is so filled with graft and corruption and incomperents that any donation people give will just be wasted."

"Nanakawin lang 'yan (That will only be



stolen)," is the common comment.

Of course, the big businessmen in the President's party readily contributed. How could they refuse? Speaker Jose de Venecia, as if conducting an auction, foudly dunned them one by one as they sat cooped up inside the plane to China. And the President herself was warch ing; it was a matter of pride. The alternative was to jump from the plane

Anyway, they would get their contribution back in the form of favors from the government, as they always do when they give to a candidate's campaign kitty. And it would be tax deductible, pa. So they don't really lose anything; sikut pa sila. Besides, it is cheaper than paying the correct taxes. What is P1 million compared to the tens of millions of pesos they save through tax evasion? When tax investigators come to audit their books, they can readily tell them with hurt in their voices: "Nag-donate na kami, bakit l-lmbistigahan nyo pa kami (We already donated funds, why will you still investigate us)?"

But then, this unkind cut: policemen were also forced to contribute a day's pay to the Fund so their superiors will look good. This means many motorists will have to support the

policemen's families for the day. They tried to do the same thing to the soldiers who turned out brave enough to resist. "Ano kayo, sinustaverte?" snorted a sergeant. "It is us who die for a purance, but it is us who will be

continue to enjoy their privileges and perks?" Many congressmen have offered to donate one month's salary to the Fund. Cabinet mem-

asked to give up a day's salary while the fat cats

bers and mayors have issued press releases for their subordinates to cut costs. But hardly anyone has offered to give up his or her privileges and perks. A few senators (Ping Lacson, Fred Lim, Franklin Drilon, Joker Arroyo) have given up their pork barrel allocations but most of the legislators still cling to theirs, although the whole nation wants this corrupt and wasteful system abolished outright.

The offers of donations, conditions for giving up part of their pork, press releases for austerity measures, etc. are all diversionary tactics to prevent the abolition of the pork barrel. For while a legislator's one month's salary is only P35,000, a senator's pork barrel allocation is P200 million a year, while that of a congressman is P65 million a year

I think this administration and Congress have no moral right to impose even a single peso in new tax unless the pork barrel system-both for members of Congress and the executive department (yes, they, too have pork)-is abolished. They ask the people to pay more, yet, they continue to steal and waste taxpayers' money? What gall.

The government has no moral right to impose new or higher taxes unless it first makes those who rake in millions of pesos-like the religious organizations—pay taxes, too. It may be all right to exempt the religious services, but universities that cater to the rich are business enterprises that should be taxed like all others. Ateneo, La Salle, University of Sto. Tomas, Letran, etc. make oodles of money. Why shouldn't they pay taxes? Iglesia ni Cristo, El Shaddar, Jesus is Lord collect tens of millions of pesos from their followers every week, why shouldn't they pay taxes?

The President has already said she will not tax the Church. I think she has no moral right to ask the ordinary citizens to pay more unless she demands the same of those who can afford to pay more. She has no right to squeeze more out of the people unless she removes the pork from her proposed budget.

Jokers

THE IDEA, of course, is to show that they are people possessed of much nobility and spirit of self-sacrifice. That is the congressmen's offer to part with some of their money for the good of the country. But it reeks of trony.

Jose de Venecia has already offered to donate a million pesos to the survival kitty. And last I heard, he managed to invergle, or coerce, the passengers of PAL PR 001, composed of the First Couple and their friends who were winging their way to China, to cough up 24 well P350 million to the cause. Most of them from their own pockets. One businessman was heard to complain, "This has been my most expensive foreign trip even."

Not to be outdone, several congressmen have offered to donate their salaries to the nation. This was their way of purching in to help the country stave off disaster, they said.

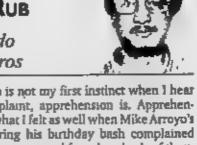
In fact, what all this shows is not a group of self-sacrificing heroes but a bunch of self-aggrandizing con men. Alfredo Lam is right to retort in response to De Venecia's public display of beneficence, "Buti pa siya, maraming pera (Good for him he has a lot of money)."

As to the congressmen's willingness to part with their salaries, what all this does is to show their salaries are the least of the things congressmen bother with. That is because their salaries are the least of their sources of income, their pork barrel is first. The contracts for the designated projects in their pork barrel have a way of being cornered by friends, relatives and themselves. I recall that before martial law, candidates routinely promised not to accept any pay if they won and to donate the money instead to their favorite charities. The voters, who were smarter in those days and knew a con when they saw one, routinely rejected them. Especially since the candidates who were promising this were the ones massively employing guns, goons and gold to get elected. The voters could not unagine how people who went to this trouble did so only to make noble sacrifices afterward.

The same is true of the businessmen who complain of being fleeced by De Venecia. Com-

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



miseration is not my first instinct when I hear their complaint, apprehension is. Apprehension was what I felt as well when Mike Arroyo's guests during his buthday bash complained about being separated from hundreds of thousands of pesos of their money to finance Arroyo's favorite charity. It is not merely that Arroyo fanatically subscribes to the morto, "Charity begins at home," it is that businessmen who are fleeced in this way invariably find ways to recover their wool, with interest-that is, by fleecing others in turn, namely the public.

But it's scary how government officials, elective and appointive, seem to be taking the fiscal crisis as an opportunity for one-upmanship or PR, or worse a joke. Joker Arroyo, who is one of the few non-jokers in government, is not joking when he warns of the severity of the oncoming storm and what it would take to avert it. That is not by token "gestures of serving coffee only during meetings, which will amount only to a few thousand pesos (in savings)."

What will avert the crisis is for GMA first of all to admit her part in making it, which is the only way she can reclaim any right to propose to rescue us from it. No contrition, no forgiveness. Certainly, no credibility. GMA is the chief cause of the budget deficit. As Joker points out: "President Arroyo's borrowing binge for three years, 2001 to 2003, was more than the combined borrowings of Presidents Ramos and Estrada for eight years, 1992 to 2000 (italics mine), data for which is available in Sen. Ralph Recto's Ways and Means Committee." Napocor alone has incurred losses amounting to P60

GMA did manage in the case of Angelo de la

Cruz to portray herself as his savior-no small thanks to a people who could not remember how she became the spokesperson for George W. Bush's war in Iraq, thereby turning Filipino OFWs in the Gulf into fair game for Arab tertorists. She may not do the same thing herefree herself from blame, or make the country forget about it-at the very least because the stakes are high (it is not just the survival of one Filipino at stake, it is that of the nation). At the very most because we do not understand the origins of this problem, we will be nowhere

near to solving it. Which brings us to the second part of the equation: What will avert this crists is GMA herself leading by example, which is not just giving up her own pork barrel in the form of billions in contingency funds but in putting a lid on her borrowings. As Joker reminds us, Napocor incurred its debts "in compliance of the directive of President Arroyo." Badgering congressmen to give up their salaries, or even their pork barrel, while allowing government corporations to continue to borrow and government financial institutions to give out corporate loans to cronies, is like putting out a pail to catch drops of water from a leaky faucet in the kitchen while doing nothing about a bust-

ed pipe in the bathroom. The crisis won't disappear with GMA and De Venecia soliciting voluntary or involuntary contributions from congressmen and business men, or token scrimping and saving. Though while at this, it won't hurt if GMA did as she preached even at this superficial level. How can you be believed when you issue stern warnings against government officials who waste public funds while bringing your family and friends with you on an official trip to Chi na? Surely, this country does not lack for Chi nese restaurants, specializing in Peking duck

to bring them to? What will even the crisis is nothing less than a wholesale change of government's lifestylebefore the people decide to make a wholesale change in their government again.

Bonuses and kinks

THE BLOODY siege of a Russian school by Chechnya militants, which ended with more than 340 people-mostly children-killed and scores wounded, would doubtless strengthen the candidacy of US President George W. Bush over his rival, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry. A pre-siege and pre-Republican convention poll by Time magazine showed Bush piling up a double-digit lead over Kerry—the biggest in the areas of anti-terrorism, where 57 percent chose him to 36 percent for Kerry, and as commander in chief of the US forces, where 53 trusted him versus 41 for Kerry. The Russian siege has doubtless scared even more US voters toward Bush, as they realize that international terrorism is far from receding. Doubtless they'd fall for the campaign line that here's a leader who would rather fight terrorism abroad than in their shores.

The 40 percent increase that the Energy Regulatory Commission allowed the National Power Corp. on its generation rates is only half of the increase applied for But for the cashstrapped firm, it's a partial rectification. In May 2002 President Macapagal-Arroyo imposed a cap on what Napocor could recover from the consumers for its onerously priced contracts with independent power producers 12 years before. That cap led Napocor to lower revenues and rising costs of production, jacking up its losses from P4 billion in 1998 to P34 billion in 2002. The alternative would have been for the government to shoulder its interest payments; but the latter is broke, hence the green light to increase rates.

I'm sure the Arroyo family shouldered its own travel expenses; and these were not included as expenses of the First Couple who, as part of the official delegation in the state visit to China, had their bill on the Chinese government, as protocol dictates. But the timing of the "family vacation" was unfortu-nate, as it came back-to-back with GMA's call for austerity and a cut on official trips. But the Arroyo family should just charge this painful lesson to experience, and from it learn the principle of noblesse oblige.

THIS is neither a thesis of accomplishments nor a tiresome recital of virtues. Call it a commentary, a whim, an impulse to let others view what I consider a self-centered adventure

If in the reading, some moral lessons are gained, so much the better. But let the young readers make their own mark on their own era, and let the not so young revive and relive their own memories.

How does one feel at 91 years of age? To say the least-and let me generalize-life

has been and still is interesting.

Does it mean that my life-or anybody's life—is a bed of roses? Precisely, Remember: roses come with thorns. Existence is engrossing because it is interspersed with things and events sweet and sour; agreeable and undesisable—what we call the ups and downs of life.

We must not waste time thinking about age, because whether we like it or not, come it will.

Let us instead look at it-and life in general-as a challenge: to tackle, to work on, to enjoy, to be outraged about, to laugh about and, maybe,

If stories of the past creep into this narration, understand I do not suggest that we live in the past. But then, neither must we belittle our remembrances and the influences and directions that shaped our character. What are these?

A God-fearing family with loving parents and

A beloved school—the world of education that made my youth one happy experience, leading to an epiphany of pleasures that found love for the written word, making books friends for life. First and foremost was the Bible; then came Shakespeare, Dickens, Shelley and dozens of others.

Friendship? A lasting and marvelous blessing that extends to the end of life.

Teaching? Complete personal satisfaction of my mind. "A teacher is forever."

Days of courtship and love? Topics too precious for public consumption.

I DON'T know about you, but I don't approve of

the epidemic of giving up salaries, which seems to

have infected government officialdom. Salaries

are a serious thing. Unless you quit or you're

fired, you should get your salary. A person works

POLITICAL **TIDBITS** Belinda: Olivares-Cunanan

Like the royal families in other countries, our First Family has to live by this paradigm. I can easily think of a parallel case: Japanese Grown Princess Masako can't travel abroad or do as she pleases because of noblesse oblige. Even her retreating for a month to her parents' countryside estate stirred such a controversy in Japan. In the case of our First Family, the waves part whenever and wherever they enter, but they always have to watch the way they walk. That's how life is laging may kapalit.

Doubtless the biggest bonus from GMA's China trip-reportedly it netted close to \$1 billion in benefits-was the release by the Chinese government of \$100 million to fund the first phase of the \$400-million North Railway rehabilitation project, which will connect Caloocan to Clark. Actually this project has been in the pipeline for a while already, but now GMA will move it, as decongesting Metro Manila is top priority with her As she explained to the Inquire months back, if there is dependable railway to and from the metropolis, people wouldn't mind living outside of it and coming in here just to work, as millions do in other cities abroad.

As pointed out in a previous column, the Change commitment to this project was discussed in 2002, during the visit of Li Peng, then chair of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress. It was cemented firmly during the visit of his successor, Wu Bangguo. The official who buttonholed this project was their host, Speaker Jose de Venecia. Work on the North Railway didn't move as fast, however, as it involved relocating some

70,000 families living along railroad tracks—a tough thing to do before the elections. But now that GMA is on top of this project, it should go

There was a kink in the China visit, though: former Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan was made to sign a tourism agreement two weeks after it was announced that he was being removed from the Department of Tourism and transferred to the Philippine International Trading Corp.

Appareatly his successor, Cebu Rep. Ace Durano, didn't want to take his oath on the eve of the China visit, as GMA had wanted him to do. Durano was quoted as saying he preferred to take over only after his confirmation by the Commission on

The embarrassment could have been avoided had the Palace delayed Pagdanganan's removal from the DOT a little bit more. After all, the China trip was planned way ahead, and he had just opened the first tourism office in Beijing to cash in on the annual 20 million Chinese tourists overseas.

Many people want to help out in this fiscal crisis, but they don't know how to go about it. Quiet a number want to make sure their donation goes to a worthwhile cause. One sure way is to invest in educating our young. In this connection, there's the Erda Technical Vocational High School in Pandacan, founded by Pr. Pierre Tritz. Here, about 400 students from the poorest fantilies in Metro Manila receive free high school education as well as training in skills they can immediately put to good use in factories and companies after graduation. Over the years, various individuals and corporate donors here and abroad have sponsored the training of Erda students, who are admitted free of tultion. Sponsorship costs P25,000 per student per year.

For this school year, however, seven attidents don't have any sponsors yet. In the next few days, I'll be running little backgrounders on these students, and if you feel generous, please call Pather Tritz or administrator Wilhelmina Martinez at Erda Tech, Tel. No. 564-

2608 or 564-1774.

Celebrating age

HIGH BLOOD

Aurea C. Gonzalez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. -Ed.

Marriage, family life and the scintillating jewels of our home: four boys and one girt.

Prosperity and the delights of travel. Grandchildren.

A graceful path to a satisfying middle age. All these mixed and peppered with personal griefs, disappointments, illnesses, the occasional fury over death of a loved one; and even of war

Back to the 91-year-old; what makes her tick? What in the living present occupies her mind and time?

She reads and reads. She has outgrown the women's novelists and relaxes now with Grisham and other law and spy writers. For pure mental discipline, she tackles Stephen Hawking and his notes on Newton. Will she survive this heavy

At home, she attends to mundane duties like the kitchen. She does not cook. She trains. (She is married to a gourmet.) For physical relaxation, she bowls twice a week; an illness stopped this momentarily, but she plans to resume.

She writes short stones for a woman's magazine, love stones, no less. (At 91 years about love? ha, ha!)

She memorizes relephone numbers. She engages in amicable arguments with friends. She laughs a lot when she talks to her sisters on the phonel Silly, says the serious lawyer husband;

which makes them laugh more.

Television? She watches NBA, tennis, etc. with her husband till late at night. She enjoys CNN and newspapers. (Pardon me, only the editorials, front-page news, columnists who use a minimum of "I did this," "I went there.")

Does her blood pressure ever rise? What human being is free from this? From assorted problems in life? Worries? Preoccupations? Predicaments that cannot be solved at the moment?

There have been instances in her life when her heart broke and she shed tears of pain, but in spite of ill feelings and sorrows, the path has been clear and bright. She has a multitude of faults. But why broad over them? Rather, she enthuses

over the brightness of the way.

After all, she has magnificent buffers around her. A strong, good husband, loving offspring and 16 grandchildren. Should she fall sick, they are there. When she needs this or that, or the wherewithal to get them, thank heaven, they are there. Does she cry? Does she laugh? They are there. So why worry, after all, they are always there!

She is married to a man who does not sit in a corner and whispers his needs. He is a perfectionist; therefore, he demands, he criticizes. Although he is generous and kind to a fault, he keeps everybody on his toes. She cannot afford to be lazy, or old, or apathetic. Yes, he keeps her on the ball as they say. Thank heaven for him.

One more thought for the patient reader. All through my life, all through the 91 years of it, I have held to the Divine Hand. The Hand with the nail mark on it. The Hand that signaled the parting of the Red Sea; that touched the forehead of Mother Mary and the apostles. The Hand that touched my forehead when, first, I was conscious of life. And, heaven willing, the Hand that will keep touching me and I will keep holding on to

Aurea C. Gonzalez, 91, is a retired teacher from St. Theresa's College who still writes love stories.

Delay in corrections

A PARTY AND A MET PROPERTY & A

THE "CORRECTION BOX" was conceived by the Inquirer early this year with the view to coming out with the corrections immediately, preferably, the day after it spots the error or its attention is called to it by any party.

Some readers think along the same lines. Thus, when after two days they do not see the corrections to the errors they have reported, they send tracer letters asking for the reason for the delay. One

reader even questioned the sincerity READERS' of the newspaper in acknowledging its mistakes when the correction he de-Raul J. manded did not see Palabrica



print at all. Apparently, there

have been some misconceptions about the features of the correction box. Let me point out first that it is not a flash-inthe-pan idea that will quietly disappear when nobody is looking or when the space it now occupies is made available to advertisers.

The box will stay in its slot for as long as it is needed. And considering the pressure of editorial deadlines and the frallties of human nature, it may be in for a long haul on Page A4. The day it becomes irrelevant will be a cause for rejoicing in the editorial room.

The Inquiren takes at face value the letters of the readers about perceived inaccuracies in some of its editorial content. The presumption is, the reader is motivated by noble intentions in going out of his way to scribble a note or call up the newspaper to correct a possible error of fact. While there may be readers who like to point out editorial lapses for the sheer fun of it, they are more the exception rather than the

Verification

Good faith and all, however, the editorial staff makes sure first that the requested correction is justified. "Trust but verify" is the principle that guides the editors in their evaluation of alleged errors in reporting. After all, the INQUIRER is not immune from false leads ("kuryentes," as they are called in the vernacular) that some people, who have nothing better to do in life, like to play on the media.

Verifying mistakes in names, dates and places that are widely known or of recent vintage is easy. A telephone call to resource persons or offices often produces quick results. The newspaper's database of editorial material comes in handy if the correction sought refers to an item that had earlier been reported on. No need to go over old newspaper copies, a few clicks on the computer will make the archive available for re-

If these measures are not adequate, there is always the inquiesa research staff to lean on for assistance. With their wide repertoire of information sources that they have developed through the years and their familiarity with Google and other search engines in the Internet, the group can promptly validate or disprove claims of factual errors.

As soon as the inaccuracy is confirmed, the proper correction can be immediately made. And if the space in the correction box is insufficient or additional explanation is required, the item can be discussed in a follow-up story or treated separately in the section where the original news reports or arti-

But not all complained errors can be checked with ease or in time to catch the following day's newspaper edition. There are items that require going through old records or seeking out the best person who can state with certainty whether a certain piece of information is accurate or not.

UP records

The verification process becomes tricky if the news report involves Guinness Book-like distinction or prestige, such as titleholders, record-breaking events and unprecedented actions. Being the "most" or the "best" in any field can be a matter of interpretation; it may also depend on the circumstances surrounding the subject of the news re-

It's good if there is a recognized national or international body that validates the records or titles in question. Its comments on the issue will be controlling. But if no such entity exists, the person tasked with evaluating the correction being sought has to make sure his reference materials are really reletworthy

vard law graduate, Fil-American Kiwi Camara, whose grandfacher, quoting Camara's uncle, graduated from the University of the Philippines with a 1.06 grade, "the highest ever recorded" in UP's history.

The claim drew a protest from Inquirer columnist Aida Sevilla-Mendoza who said the honor belongs to his late father, Exequiel Sevilla, who graduated summa cum laude

The only way to resolve this conflict was to consult the records of UP Considering the time gap involved (77 years), nor to mention the fragility of school records, the verification took time. It was only after 27 days, or last Sept. 1, that the incountry was able to state in its correction box that the honor of having the highest scholastic achievement in UP belongs

Then there is the Aug. 12 report about Editwasif Baddari being the first full-blooded member of the Tausug ethnic group to be admitted to the Master in Public Administration Program of Harvard University in the United States. The day after that news came out, the newspaper received several letters contesting the distinction given to Baddiri. The letter writers mentioned the names of other Tausugs who, they claim, deserve that honor.

tion came out, the correction box stated that there have been other Tausugs who have not only gained admission to the program but who have earned master's degrees in public administration at the same school. Among them are Amina Rasul who earned her MPA at Harvard in 1999 and Madge Kho

in some cases. Accuracy cannot be sacrificed for speed. It would be more embarrassing if, after making a correction, the newspaper corrects itself again because the first correction turned out to be wrong.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yugue and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The INQUIRER is a member of the

A case in point is the Aug. 4 story about the youngest Har-

from UP in 1927 with a perfect 1.0 grade. to Exequiel Sevilla.

Other claims

The "protests" called for a thorough investigation of the conflicting claims. Four days after the news report in ques-

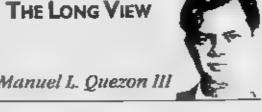
who earned hers in 1991. The delay in making certain corrections cannot be helped

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Perils of austerity



Manuel L. Quezon III



and does his job, he should get paid; he shouldn't be asked to "volunteer" his hard-earned wages There was a time when government salaries were really rather good. Not anymore. There are many reasons for the decline in government salaries (among them, the continuing subdivision of our country into more and more local units which in turn lead to an ever-increasing number of patronage positions and corresponding in-

crease in the ranks of national government em-

ployees) but the fact is, government work doesn't

offer the best compensation roday. Add to this the

perennial problem in the public service-employ-

ees not getting paid on time, and you wonder why people turn corrupt?

I've had my share of dealing with people in the government service. While in terms of skills they may lag far behind their counterparts in the private sector, the vast majority of them are simply trying to do their work tolerably well, aiming for what we all want to achieve: a little comfort and security, a promotion here and there, and a secure retirement at the end of it all. God knows the system has made this more and more impossible

for the honest civil servant. Rene Saguisag has said that public service—particularly in the higher levels—demands of the public servant personal wealth to begin with, if one is to avoid corruption. He is right.

What is worse is that public service has also steadily demanded of its lower-level workers an enprepreneurial spirit. And this they have to embrace if they are to keep their heads-and those of the members of their families—financially above water. Not everyone can be a successful entrepreneur, and you have to wonder at the toll sidelines take on the public service. But again there will be an ever-in-

creasing number of public servants who'd abuse their positions, rather than engage in entrepreneurship, to improve their finances

So when officials come up with the idea of giving up their salaries, whether daily or monthly, in the name of the public good, I'm not convinced it makes any sense at all. Assuming an employee deserves the job he is in-unless something glaring manifests itself to the contrary-and is doing his best, what right have you to ask or require him to give up his hard-earned wages?

The public good? Presumably, government workers-being in the public sector to begin with-are supposed to be already attending to that although earning peanus for doing so. The spirit of national solidarity? Of shared sacrifice? Is that what's required?

I wonder if what we need is sacrifice. We could do with a lot more wisdom and a greater sense of responsibility. Put it this way: it's very easy to say we must give things up, when what is called for is spending what we have more wisely. Doing away with snacks, reducing the number of official trips, trying to look gallant by cutting down salaries and allowances don't seem to me the way to go because they don't get to the root of the problem, which is; too much expenditure on the wrong things, but not enough on the right things

The rich should not be spending less, they should be spending more but on Filipino goods and services. The government should not be spending less, but spending more: on infrastructure, nutrition and education; instead of arma-

ments. And government officials should also steal less. Austerity will lead to less turon for the rank and file, but the bosses will still have their steak. Congressmen who give up a month's wages only make you wonder how seriously they take their job, if they don't even care to collect what they've supposedly earned. Giving up the pork barrel will not, in any way, eliminate the evil in the system, which is not the fixed allocations for local communities but the illegal commissions and percentages that leave too little of the appropriated funds for the project they are intended for.

Austerity only aids those already skilled in dodging the law, and makes accountability more difficult. The calls for austerity, as they stand, will not make things better for the many, they will make things worse. If you ban office parties, for example, several things will happen. First of all, you are depriving Filipinos of income and jobs: were every government office to stop commemorating the foundation of their office, or people prohibited from celebrating their birthdays, there would be a corresponding drop in the income of people who make party food and that sort of thing. Add to this the extreme unpleasantness arising from the fact that life is already tough, and by law you can't even have a little fun—what sort of life is this? A sort of grim desire to have everyone live in communal misery, with everyone planting and eating cumots and breaking wind on each other's face-in other words, the rigid inhumanity of a Socialist paradise.

The perils of austerity can be seen in snacks having been hanned from the Palace, while it turns out the government can't even accept, much less properly allocate, donations that many Filipinos want to make to reduce the national debt. There are many who want to help the country, but there are officials who are too busy waging a crusade against snacking instead of doing the homework necessary to enable the patriotic to pitch in.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Gov't has no moral stature to demand higher taxes

ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez ey to good use. Thus, how can this has asked motorists to impose upon themselves a "car-less day." This car-less day is on top of the MMDA enforced color-coding scheme that bars vehicles from the metropolis a day each week depending on their plate numbers.

Perez says the measure should help a little in easing the fiscal and energy crisis the country is facing. We have no quarrel with Perez's bright idea, except that the government should lead by example. We, the taxpayers, do not feel that govemment has been putting our mon-

POPULATION control advocates

contend that the Philippines is be-

coming overcrowded, that our re-

sources-both natural and man-

made—are fast becoming depleted

and that the time is very near when

Filipinos will be too numerous to

provide for their basic needs. The

problem is, they do not provide any

The population control advo-

basis for their contentions.

administration compel us to pay more taxes, including the muchcriticized tax on text messages?

To applicate the description of the Delegation of the Contract of the Contract

It would be nice to see Perez and other government officials taking the MRT and LRT, instead of plowing through traffic every day with their and their bodyguards' gas-guzzling, road-hogging SUVs. By doing this, government officials would be on the moral high ground when they ask the already suffering people to tighten their belts some more.

But alast

cates must show how long it will

take to fill up the vast open coun-

tryside with people. They have to

prove that the money lost due to

corruption or the funds allotted to

lawmakers as pork barrel are not

enough to provide all Filipino chil-

dren with good education. They

have to prove that Filipino couples

are so irresponsible as to go into

marriage without making sure that

When government officials play with toys for the big boys, like the latest models of SUVs bearing red plates and gassed up by taxpayers' money, how can they ever justify taxing text messages on the premise that texting is a luxury, therefore subject to excase tax?

Neverl They can never justify Macapagal-Arroyo's President new tax measures.

> -MYRNA CASA-UL, Kingsland Village, Dasmariñas, Cavite, myrna casaul@yahoo.com

-EDUARDO R. CONDAT, 83 Canciller Ave., Cauayan City, Isabela

they have the means to provide for the children God will give them.

They have to prove that it is the nation's interest they have in mind and not the interest of big multinational businesses which are here to sell their contraceptive

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Who cares for the elderly?

who are both 78 years old, to take advantage of their senior citizens' discount privilege, particularly in the purchase of medicines, but their medical booklets, issued in 1994 yet, have remained blank.

SOUTHER !

Don't reward

gasoline stations

THIS is in reaction to the news re-

port titled "44 gas stations found

duping buyers" by Tina Santos in

the INQUIRER'S Aug. 31 issue. The

report said, "the gasoline stations

were found to be deducting more

than the 'tolerable' 10 milliliters

for every 10 liter bucket of the oil

Can this be an accurate mea-

sure? Gasoline is a very volatile

liquid and it can only tolerate 0.1

percent volume deviation using

the calibration bucket. Do gaso-

line pumps have better than 0.1

percent accuracy (to allow such

tight tolerance using open buck-

et)? As a consumer of gasoline, I

will be very happy if the report is

On the other hand, fines of

P400 and P800 for first and sec-

ond offenses are too low, if these

numbers are correct. The govern-

ment should not make cheating or

negligence rewarding for gasoline

-ERNESTO C. IGNACIO,

erneign@edsamail.com.ph

accurate. Kindly verify.

cheating

products."

stations.

My mother was hospitalized recently. After she was discharged, I went to one of the outlets of a wellestablished drugstore with a nationwide network to buy her medicines. I tried to use her senior citizens' card, only to be told that it couldn't be accepted because the prescription did not contain the generic names, address, sex and age of the servor citizen. Therefore I needed to have a letter of authorization from her. I had to buy a few of her medicines without the 20 percent discount. Immediately after that, I had to look for the generic names of her medicines because it would take a half day to go to the hospital (to have the prescription rewritten) from our place.

A week after, I brought back my mother to the hospital for a checkup and asked her doctor to include the generic names of the medicines. But this time the doctor forgot to write down my mother's age. When we returned to the drugstore, we were told that since the prescription did not carry information on her age, we could not avail ourselves of the senior citizens' discount.

I did not want to argue with the drugstore's staff about the autho-

I HAVE been urging my parents, rization letter. I instead told them that we could just write down the age right there. But I was told that only the doctor can do that.

My mother was with me at that time and she certainly looks in her 70s. But they would not accept that, it must be the doctor who must write down her age in the prescription slip. My husband tried to reason out with the manager, to no avail.

I know that the drugstore's staff were just doing their job. But couldn't they be flexible on certain cases? Must they wait for an order? From whom? The drugstore owners? From the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs? From the Department of Trade and Industry? From the Department of Social Welfare and Development? Or from the Department of Health?

I asked for the telephone number of the OSCA national office from directory assistance, only to be told that the numbers they have are no longer working numbers. I called the OSCA office in Bacoor, Cavite, but no one there knew the telephone number of the OSCA main office.

To whom do we turn to then if senior citizens are deprived of the privileges they so justly deserve?

Now I know why my mother's medical booklet remains brank after all these years.

-ROSANNA R TRAMPE, Bacoor, Cavite, ntrampe@yahoo.com

Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail **Panasonic**



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Disturbing ignorance

THE LETTER of Elps Cuna (PDI, 8/20/04) evades the issues and only exposes a disturbing ignorance of what electricity service is all

Cana should know that "only prudent, reasonable and necessary costs are recoverable after audit." The Supreme Court's P30-billion refund order and the Court of Appeals' disallowance of Meralco's rate increase (disguised as rate unbundling) are clear applications of

Cana ignores the fact that "smaller franchises charge far lower rates than Meralco." Private distribution utilities in San Fernando and Dagupan charge residential customers P4.809/kWh and P4.696/kWh, respectively; electric cooperatives in Benguet and flocos Sur charge P4-4154/kWh and P4.3942/kWh. Meralco charges an average rate of P6.1341/kWh.

Cuna's defense of Meralco raises even more serious questions. Because of my "selective amnesia," he writes, I failed "to consider other components such as, generation, transmission and universal charges." Meralco's generation charge in the decision reversed by the Court of Appeals is P3.40/kWh, derived from the Napocor's selling price of P2.12/kWh and the P4.21/kWh of the Lopez-owned IPPs. If Meralco bought all its power from Napococ, the passon cost of generation would be at least P1.2829/kWh cheaper at only P2.12/kWh. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has proved that Meralco at one time paid the Lopez-owned First Gas the equivalent of P18/kWh. How will Cuna and Meralco explain this procurement of expensive and excess power from a Lopez-owned generation company?

Meralco walked away from a 10-year power supply agreement with Napocor (at P2.40/kWh) in favor of First Gas (at P4.30/kWh), leading to a P20-billion penalty Meralco must now pay Napocor with money Meralco wants to collect from us.

Cuns claims our consumer advocacy "drive(s) investors away." If these investors are those who make a return on "ghost capital," are more profit than service oriented and are not beneath self-dealing at the expense of the consumers, we are better off if they stay

It is not my "objective to demolish Meralco." I want to strengthen it by keeping its management honest, efficient, transparent and fair to its captive customers. If the Lopez management fails that criteria, we will simply have to try harder for Meralco's over 3 million cus-

As to putting Meralco in a "bad light" and creating "a strain on our (their) finances," the former is a consequence of Meraico's present behavior as a utility; the latter, of its manage ment practices now subject of several ongoing regulatory hearings.

My "unsolicited advice" to Cuna: attend the public hearings-even take the witness stand if you have anything worth hearing-understand the electricity industry, and know that it is a service before it is a busi

--- PETE ILAGAN, president. **National Association** of Electricity Consumers for Reforms, Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Gardens, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City 1300

IRA suspension prejudicial to poor

WE, members of Empowering Civic Participation in Governance, an NGO that advocates participatinty local governance and electoral reform, are fully behind the stand of the League of Provinces in the Philippines (LPP) and the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines (ULAP) opposing the proposal to temporarily suspend the distribution of the internal revenue

allotment due local government units. The proposal violates both Article X, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution and Section 286 of the Local Government Code of 1991, which safeguard the automatic release of the LGUs' just share of national taxes. The Supreme Court, in fact, has already decided on this issue in two previous cases.

It must also be pointed out that the proposal could paralyze or undermine the basic service delivery and other operations of a substantial number of LGUs, especially barangays, that to main dependent on their IRA. Because the poor and the marginalized are often dependent on their LGUs for social services, they could be the first to suffer from the suspension

-JEREMY NISHIMORI, program officer, **Empowering Civic Participation** in Governance (ECPG), 122-B Matahimik St., Barangay UP Village, 1101 Quezon City

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Pampanga exec urges strict quarry tax watch

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—How much revenue has Pampanga received or stands to get from the quarry industry, which has thrived from the sand that Mt. Pinatubo spewed out in its 1991 eruptions?

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao said that lowlands of the province, the answer to this question was "gray."

Guiao said the provincial board had no xiea if the income from quarrying alone could sustain Pampanga as the national government grappled with huge budget deficit and debt problems.

He said provincial treasurer Vergel Yabut had yet to submit the daily collection report that the board demanded two weeks ago

The Provincial Mining Regulatory Board, whose members were summoned by the board a month ago, admitted to having no direct hand in monitoring quarry operations and income.

But Guiao said officials in charge of like the lahar canyons in upland Porac - the quarry operations could arrive at or in sandy reaches of rivers in the an estimate by counting the number of trucks hauling sand out of Pampan-

By determining the actual number of trucks and multiplying this with the P300 tax per truckload, the board can estimate the daily income of the provincial govemment from quarrying, he said.

The provincial government, the town governments and villages of Bacolor, Lubao, Sta. Rita, Porac, Mabalacat and Mexico divide the amount on a 30-30-40 percent sharing scheme.

On Friday, Guiao explored the possibility of doing the truck counting through the computerized toll collection and traffic management systems of Manila North Tollways Corp. (MINTC) MNTC, which started rehabilitat-

ing the highway in February 2003, will start operating the North Luzon Expressway in December.

MNTC president Jose de Jesus said a memorandum of agreement with the provincial board was possible since the company was also in the lookout for overloaded vehicles.

In 1999 when the state-owned Natural Resources Development Corp. was supervising the collections, the agency reported an income of P150.45 million from 509,805 truckloads of sand.

In a month alone, as in August 2001, the NRDC collected P8.034 million. In contrast, the provincial government, which reclaimed control over the quarry collections through a court battle, earned only P8 million from January to October last year. Tonette Orejos, PDI Central Luxon Desk

Maguindanao doctor honored

COTABATO CITY—For making extra steps in and 2,200 other eye operations. helping improve the lives of poor people afflicted with eye diseases, a Maguindanao physician received honor from the Department of Health and a multinational drug firm.

Ophthalmologist Dr. Kadil Sinolinding Jr. was named one of five medical practitioners and health workers all over the country that DOH and Pfizer Philippines recognized as Heroes for Health

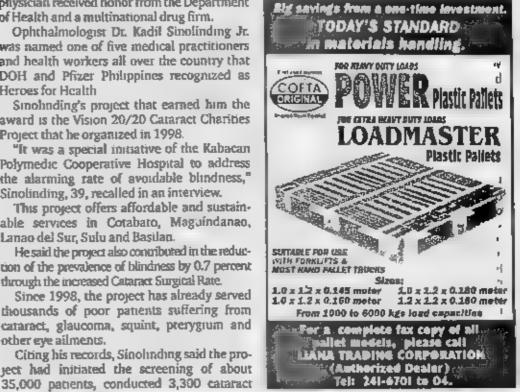
Smohnding's project that earned him the award is the Vision 20/20 Cataract Charities Project that he organized in 1998

"It was a special initiative of the Kabacan Polymedic Cooperative Hospital to address the alarming rate of avoidable blindness," Sinolinding, 39, recalled in an interview.

This project offers affordable and sustainable services in Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Basilan. He said the project also contributed in the reduc-

through the increased Cataract Surgical Rate. Since 1998, the project has already served thousands of poor patients suffering from cataract, glaucoma, squint, prerygium and

other eye ailments. Citing his records, Sinolanding said the prosect had initiated the screening of about 35,000 patients, conducted 3,300 cataract Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau



Zambales folk oppose quarrying of stones

STA. CRUZ, Zambales-Enraged by the supposed environmental damage caused by mining activities, residents of three villages in this town have started waging battle to end all forms of quarrying here.

In a pention, various groups from the villages of Lucapon, Tubo Tubo North and Tabo Tabo South denounced the digging of white clay, red stone, amestone and several other open pit mining operations that, they said, had endangered their lives and property.

"We greatly suffer from the harmful effects of mining activities being done in our villages. These (opera-

tions) have gradually destroyed our houses, farms and roads," they said.

They also blamed the quarrying for floodwaters that swamped their crops during rainy seasons, resulting in huge losses for farmers and their families.

Rey Bigiain, Zambales organizer of the Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka (PKMM), said mining in this town were disrupting the lives of people living in the mine and quarry sites.

He said the garbage and mud dug out of the quarry sites were dumped in nearby rivers, ponds and swamps, affecting

quality of water in their communities.

and properties that have been threatened by the reckless quarrying in their places. We demand that these activities be stopped to bring our lives back to normal," Biglain said

But Thelma Valiente, records officer of the provincial environment and natural resources office, said their records showed that no quarry operator had been operating in the town since June.

Valiente said only two persons applied for permits to quarry white clay in Lucapon, but their permits had already expered in June.

"The residents fear for their lives Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk Salary delay plagues casual workers

CASUAL and contractual employees salaries since June. in Oriental Mindoro have not received salaries since July.

from employees, who requested time in years. виопуницу

Those who used to receive P180 ly P130 a day.

In the City of Calapan, employees who were paid P190 per day before will now be getting P180

Contractual employees have complained that under the new contract they signed, P1,000 will be deduct-

ed Palawan teachers and Puerto Princesa City employees also claimed that they had not yet received their

Puerto Princesa administrator Agustin Rocamora said the problem When they do, the amount will be was due to the delay in the release of reduced under the new contract that - the Internal Revenue Allotment from they signed, the INQUIRER learned the national government—the first formation officials.

In Laguna, government employees said their per diems and alper day will get P150 and those who llowances were delayed by 15 days used to get P150 will now receive on- or, sometimes, by one month to three months.

Norito Cabotaje, officer-in-charge of the Philippine Information Agency based in Calamba City, said government employees in the province had appealed for an across-the-board increase of P3,000 in monthly salaries.

Although government employees got their salaries on time, these were no longer enough to help them meet basic needs due to rising prices, Cabo-

Quezon, Sorsogon and Albay government employees, however, have not raised any complaints on salary delays, according to government in-

Joseph Perez of the Department of Agraman Reform noted that they were sometimes even paid in ad-

In Ligao City, budget officer Rosalia Boquiron said they had no problem in the release of salanes and benefits because of cost-saving measures they had Madonna Virola, Romulo Ponte, Geraldford Ticke, Delfin Mallart Jr., Job Belen,

Emir Gamus and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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Chinoy traders in shootout in Butuan Pampanga board OKs

BUTUAN CITY-Two members of a Johnny Dy and Lorencio to prevent wealthy Pilipino-Chinese family here were engaged in a shootout in a busy commercial district on Thurs-

against time to reconcile brothers other's private armies.

each party from resorting to violent retaliatory acts.

Anggo said the brothers, scions of a Senior Supt. Efren Anggo, city po- struction, export and real state busilice chief, said they were now rushing ness, are known to maintain each

Prior to the shootout, Lorencio allegedly ransacked a family-owned hardware being managed by Johnny.

Johnny, who was slightly wounded rich Chinese trader engaged in con- . in the stomach during the shootout, said the incident was sparked by a long-running family feud. Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PDI Central Luzon Desk

By Tonette Orejas

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO-The provincial board on Friday let down its opposition to the plan of Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) to raise toll fees at the North Luzon Expressway by 600 percent in December.

NLEX toll hike plan

Eleven of the 13 board members supported the controversial rate adjustment after they heard the presentation of MNTC president Jose de Jesus during a meeting here.

Board member Nestor Tolentino, who opposed the plan and called for its investigation. left before De Jesus began his presentation. Board member Lilia Pineda was absent.

"Subsequent adjustments (in rates) will be smaller" after the initial 600 percent increase," said De Jesus, himself a Kapampan-

The company, largely owned by the Lopez family, will start collecting P2.49 per kilometer when it takes over management and operations of the 83-km NLEX in three months. The current charge is P0.52 per km for Class 1 (cars and light vehicles), Pl.04 for Class 2 (buses, mini buses), and P1.55 for Class 3 (trucks and trailers).

The second increase, cuming after two years, will be 4 percent lower, while the third up to the fifth adjustments will be 15 percent higher. A 6-percent increase is planned for the sixth round.

The increases will be spread over 10 years when MNTC is expected to have fully paid the loan to its creditors, De Jesus said. It will operate the NLEX until 2030.

Non-government groups

While the board members took a change of heart, leaders of nongovernment organizations insisted on finding ways to reduce the costs of traveling at the NLEX. Tootsie Herrera of Nutriline said the state-

owned Philippine National Construction Corp., which has been operating the NLEX for 30 years, should defer getting its 6-percent share from MNTC revenues.

The rares could then be decreased and not passed on to motorists and commuters, the NGO leaders said

The board has yet to hold a public hearing on that issue. Showing a graph, De Jesus said the next adjustments would be minimal.

The rehabilitated NLEX, which links 22 provinces in Northern and Central Luzon to Metro Marilla, brings many benefits, De Jesus said.

Vehicles can save between 95 centavos and P5.03 for every kilometer, he said, clting results of a study by the University of the Philip-

Travel time, he said, could be cut by half an hour and with low incidence of road traffic accidents.

He said bus companies had no reason to increase fare because of the savings and opportunities in plying the road frequently.

The new NLEX would boost regional tourism, employment, economic growth and land values, he added.

De Jesus shot down the suggestion of Board member Tarcicio Halili to spread the toll increases over a longer period by extending the MNTC contract for 30 more years.

After noting the controversy over Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project, De Jesus said foreign investors and lenders were looking at how the government was treating MNTC.

They're looking at the importance of honoring contracts," he told Halili.

The MNTC loan, he said, carried no government guarantee. The P11.7-billion project cost ballooned to P18.3 billion, but the P6.6bithon increment due to peso devaluation, loan interest and other financing factors was not included in the base toll rate.

MNTC, De Jesus said, was expecting a return of 13.92 percent in investments.

Economics

Much throughout the meeting, the board members showed more interest on the economic benefits of the restored highway than on the toll rates.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao said De Jesus made "convincing" explanations. The doubts and even resistance to the toll increase were largely due to lack of an information campaign, he said

But he said the board's support for the prosect did "not necessarily" mean that it would no longer protest against the project.

"What we want is to cushion the impact (of the toll fee increase) on the public,* Gusao

Gov. Mark Lapid said he was still studying the plan and would only arrive at a decision after consultations with various sectors.

De Jesus told the INQUIRER that he would defend the toll increase plan before the House of Representatives during an inquiry called by Pampanga Rep. Anna York Bondoc today.

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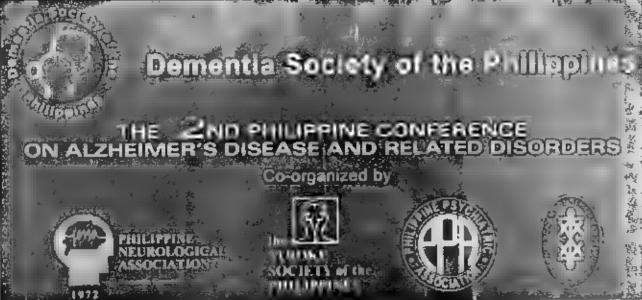
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Senate, House lawmakers feast on pork barrel

From page Al

The procurement budget includes the pork battel of senators and congressional representatives. Going by Andaya's estimate, about P4 billion, or a fifth of the P20 billion allocated for pork this year, was likely lost to corruption.

But this may be an understate-

Web of corruption

In 1998, former Pinance and Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez estimated that as much as 45 percent of pork funds went to "commissions," particularly transactions involving medical supplies and educational materials.

The kickbacks from infrastructure projects, which are traditionally more expensive, ran up to 30 percent of the total project cost, he said

in 2001, Enriquez asserted that only about 60 percent of government funds went to the implementation of development projects and activines. The balance lined the pockets of a "web of conspirators" that, he said, were "difficult to pinpoint."

Following Enriquez's estimate, the bribes paid from pork funds this year would be in the range of P8 billion of the P20 billion earmarked for pork.

One veteran legislator says that congressmen tend to be more tempted to accept commissions from pork barrel projects than senators. That's because they have to worry about pleasing their constituents, he says.

Beware of Ping

"Contractors give me money, around 5 percent of the project cost, because they know I need it," says the congressman. "I don't demand, but I accept what they give me. I need it to help my constituents. This is common pract.ce. It will be difficult to name a colleague who does not benefit from these projects."

As a rule, contractors are careful in dealing with senators.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson says many contractors have approached him to ask how big a cut he wants from his pork barrel projects. But that may not have been a wise move, since Lacson, who has made a study of the pork barrel system, has filed charges with the Ombuosman against people who, he says, had hands that were greasy with pork money

In 2002, Lacson spent P147 million of his P150 million in pork funds for projects that included building farm-to-market roads and supplying water to some towns. At least two of those projects, however, prompted him to file graft cases against two members of his own staff, as well as against a DPWH regional director, a district engineer and a municipal mayor.

Who gets what

According to Lacson, these people made money from the transacnons, which made the government lose millions of pesos in the process.

Last year, the senator announced that he was giving up his P200-million pork barrel. He not only urged his colleagues at the Senate to do the same but also called for the abolition of pork.

Lacson estimates that only less than half of the taxpayers' money actually goes to projects. He figures the breakdown of the kickbacks of the project proponents

HOW HOUSE MEMBERS SPENT THEIR PDAFIN 2001 1st Tranche (in pesos) % of Total % of Total 60.00% LGU capability bulleted 33.40% 934,675,800 542,818,000 64,232,500 4.10% 136,430,000 8.40% Roads and bridges 129,677,500 6.30% 138,786,000 8.40% Public buildings THE STREET OF THE Other Infrastructure 2.10% 24,257.000 1.50% 3,500,000 0.20% 0.20% 3,200,000 Multipurpose pavements. 777598.7 152,977,369 9.50% 1 70% 26,875,000 Education 4.30% 92,613,031 6.00% 70,035,000 Health 0.10% 1,050,000 Livelihood projects . 19,300,000 1.20% 22,830,000 1 50% 1,60% Water supply Communications equipment 0.30% 0.00% 118,554 050 7 60% 636,530,000 39.20% 1' 7 300 300 0 4 1,822,864,860 100.00% 190.00% 1,557,588,258 "mostly rice subsidy for 1st franche

and implementers is something like this: 20 percent, or the lion's share, to the legislator who identified the project; 14 percent to the contractor; 10 percent to the district engineer and other DP-WH officials; 5 to 10 percent to the governor or mayor; 2 percent to the barangay captain; and 2 percent goes to the Commission on Audit official, who is supposed to be the watchdog of the people's money.

Even the billboards that advertise the projects and their proponents are overpriced, says Lacson.

A big-time contractor, who handles the public works projects of senators and congressmen, confirms the continuing practice of legislators drawing lockbacks from pork. But he gives a different kickback breakdown: legislator, 5 to 10 percent; DPWH, 5 to 10 percent; DBM, one percent; COA, 0.5 percent.

The contractor says the amounts have gone down slightly because the payment of the VAT or value-added tax, a stipulation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, has eaten into the usual share of legislators and DPWH personnel from pork. The VAT accounts for 10 percent of the pro-

A senator points to dredging, asphalt overlays, and farm-tomarket roads as the most corruption-ridden infrastructure

There is simply no way to monitor how well these are implemented," says the senator. "If they tell you they will dredge x cubic meters, who will check where the hell that number of cubic meters went? The same with asphalt overlay. Whether it is one centimeter or 10 inches, nobody knows."

Another contractor adds that the public will never even know how many times a certain project has been approved for repair by how many agencies.

Decisions for sale

A Commission on Audit insider confirms auditors partake of payoffs, but clarifies that the state auditing agency's total share is bigger than many assume.

"Decisions (of auditors) are really for sale," says the insider, "You have the inspector who does the after-project report and gets 0.5 percent of the pork. You have the director who gives his opinion or approves the report. And you go up the ladder. For the COA, that must be about 10 percent to 15 percent of the pork all in all it's a small price to pay for politicians when you think of the possibility of going to court."

A 1998 PCLI study showed that the biggest kickbacks of legislators come from the purchase of medical supplies and educa-

tional materials funded by the Countrywide Development Fund and the Congressional Initiative Allocation.

With such purchases, greese money can take up 40-65 percent of project cost. In comparison, commissions from infrastructure projects ranged from 12 percent to 20 percent.

Lawmakers get half of the cut as soon as the deal is struck; the balance, upon the issuance by the DBM of the Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) and/or the Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA). The Saro gives the implementing agency the authority to contract goods and services, while the NCA is an assurance that funds for the project are already available in the implementing agency's bank account.

Legislators, however, do not have a monopoly of the largesse from pork barrel projects.

One PCLI study tracing the flow of pork, for instance, indicates that heads of implementing agencies ger 10 to 12 percent of total project cost upon issuance of the Saro/NCA. Budget personnel are allotted one to 2 percent "to expedite the release" of funds to the implementing agency.

Barangay chairs' share

After the bidding and during the execution of projects by the contractors, local officials are given their share, too: 7 percent to the mayor and 3 percent to the barangay captain, all paid after the issuance of the necessary

During the Estrada administration, kickbacks from various items due to overprice, nondistribution, or cash conversion (in the case of National Food Authority supplementary materials. or NFA rice for distri-

bution) reached as high as 50 percent of total pork funding.

A congressional staff member also recalls: "The rice subsidy was the favorite of many congressmen because they could give away just a few and then the rest they would then sell to rice traders. That became rampant until finally it was stopped because too many legislators could no longer explain where much of the rice was going."

Before the practice was halted, congressmen had poured P636.5 million of their pork into the rice subsidy programs in 2001. The amount accounted for 40 percent or the biggest share of the first

tranche-amounting to P1.62 bilhon-of the Priority Development Assistance Fund, or the PDAE re-

leased that year. But another congressional staff member says legislators found a way to go around this. Soon, the favorite pork project of wily lawmakers became funding "local government unit capabilitybuilding"-which could be "almost anything," says the staff member

From 33 percent of the first tranche of the PDAF in 2001, the share of these types of projects leapt to 60 percent of the second tranche of the facility that very

School books

Often, the project involved the distribut on of educational materials, which, with the help of local government officials, could easily be faked.

The money could look used up even if there wasn't anything distributed," the congressional employee says. "All you need is the cooperation of the local exec-

This scheme remains popular. But lawmakers, contractors, and government regulators talk of different percentages and parameters, and give varying justificanons for the practice.

Allegations of anomalies attending pork barrel projects have prompted the DBM to limit the funds' use to areas that are less prone to corruption, like scholarships and medical assistance. The DBM under the Arroyo administration has thus prohibited the use of pork funds to buy NFA rice. medicines, and textbooks and

In 2003, Congress appended a special provision in the General Appropriations Act allowing its members to use a maximum of 10 percent of their PDAF to procure rice and other basic commodities from the NFA. Such authority was included by President Macapagal-Arroyo among the stems for conditional implementation in her veto message.

Although spared from direct veto, the disbursement of funds to buy NFA rice required that appropriate guidelmes first be drawn up.

Modus operandi

Meanwhile, contractors say that while they are now wary of approaching Lacson, not all senators are above cutting deals with them. Unlike their colleagues in the House, members of the Senate are more discreet, say contractors and Senate insiders.

After a brief casual meeting, negotiations for commissions are coursed through coordinators, usually the senator's children, sibling, chief of staff, or project manager, says a contractor. Some congressmen adopt the same modus operandi

The children of a former senator were said to be part of their father's multimillion-peso gravy train. According to some contractors, they committed projects and accepted the commissions on behalf of the senator.

One contractor recalls advancing P5 million to the ex-senator's son for a P50-million project. When the project didn't push through, the contractor asked for either a refund of his "earnest money" or another project. The senator's son kept the money and the contractor was given another

The contractor says there are also cases where a legislator's close aide would cut a deal for himself without his boss' knowledge. The chief of staff of a senator known for turning down commissions, for example, once asked a contractor for a sports utility vehicle

Payoff time

But the aide failed to deliver the promised contract. The contractor, who had made sure the vehicle remained registered in his name, took back the P1.3-million car.

A Congress insider says some contractors are asked for commissions by the legislator's staff members who assist them. In some instances, the contractors voluntarily hand the staff "tips." And sometimes the liquidation of funds is padded.

The insider says a few chiefs of, staff band together and share tips on how to make commissions.

Contractors say they make up for the bribes by ensuring that these are covered by the overprice in project estimates. Some contractors also ignore project specifications to ensure bigger profit margins.

Once an understanding about a project is reached, the lawmaker instructs a member of his staff to write the head of the Senate finance committee or the House appropriations committee to identify the projects. The letter is forwarded to the DBM and the amplementing agency.

For public works projects, the contractor then goes to the DP-WH regional director with the legislator's letter. He proceeds to the engineering group, which prepares the specifications of the projects based on the contractor's requirement. After this, a bidding notice is announced through the newspapers and the contractor with the legislator's letter is expected to "win" the award.

Except for the amount of funds at the senators' disposal, transactions involving the pork barrel of congressmen follow almost the same

Unlike in the Senate, though, suppliers and contractors openly trawl the Batasan complex, especially when the Saros and the NCAs are issued. Some of them seem to feel so at home at the House that they can be seen cooling their heels in the session hall or bantering with Congress personnel.

The same suppliers and contractors also visited the congressman's office carrying bulky bags or envelopes. Says the staff member "You'd

know right away if it was payoff time. The money would be inside an envelope or bag. Once the (supplier or contractor) came out, the envelope would be gone or the bag would suddenly look flat. And then we'd suddenly have free merienda."

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Midair pledging session

From page Al

Macapagal-Arroyo on her China visit last week.

But most of the businessmen whom De Venecia had touched up for donations while they were on the plane carrying the presidentia, party from Beijing to Xi'an City were not smiling, feeling they had been put in a situation where they could not refuse.

A businessman on the flight told the Inquirgg that, while De Venecia's effort to help the cash-strapped government was laudable, the response of the passengers was not exactly voluntary

He said the Speaker approached passengers row by row and "suggested" how much they should give.

His line was "You're rich, you can afford to give P1 million," or "Your colleague gave P1 million, so you have to match it," said the businessman, requesting anonymity.

Asked if De Venecia asked for donations with a straight face or jokingly, the businessman said: "As always, jokingly. I know by now he must have forgotten the amount, except that it was written all over the papers."

Whether De Venecia was in a playful mood or not, the effect was the same

"If you haven't encountered him before, it

would be hard to say no to him," the businessman said. "So you will be forced to say yes."

The businessman said he told a colleague: Bust give as you wish .. He (De Venecia) just wants to be in the headlines."

Reached in China by phone, De Venecia said: "Ler's set aside this incessant nitpicking. There's too much pettiness around. The point is we started something ... What we did was just to trigger an avalanche of Filipino patnotism."

The businessman said many passengers med to avoid De Venecia. Some took their time inside the toilets, others transferred to the other side of the plane

when they saw him. Some kept silent while the Speaker wrote down their pledges-they were determined to give only what they could afford.

This was why, the businessman said, he doubted that De Venecia could come up with the P350 million he had announced. He said De Venecia tried to pass the hat around

a second time on the return flight to Beijing. But a businessman loudly suggested that lawmakers give up 100 percent of their pork barrel first.

De Venecia dropped his plan and returned to his seat, the source said. With a report from Carlito Pablo



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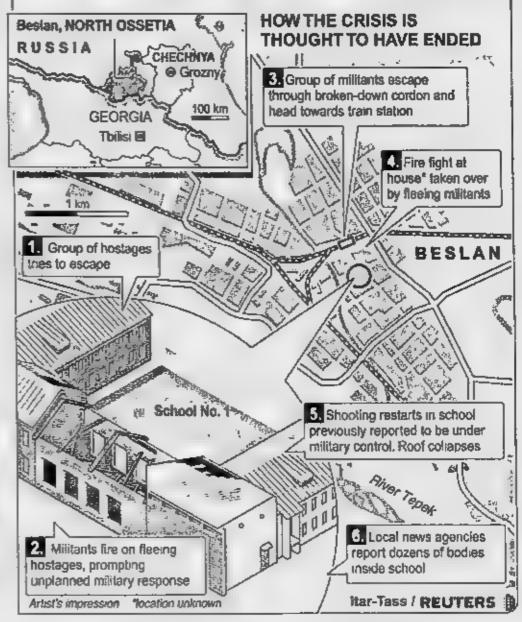
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CHAOTIC END TO SCHOOL HOSTAGE CRISIS

Action Continues Continues

Russia's school hostage drama ended in chaos on Friday with Russian forces storming the school after a fire fight broke out. What exactly happened is unclear but here is a provisional version of events pleced together from Russian agency and witness accounts



Putin vows tough response

courtyards where families were cutting up meat for ritual meals.

Some 260 people were reported missing after the three-day hostage crisis, which ended in a bloody wave of explosions and gunfire on Friday when militants set off bombs rigged in the school gymnasium and commandos stormed the building

Russian media speculated that some of the missing could be among the wounded who were brought to various hospitals in the southern Russian region, unconscious or in too deep a state of shock to be able to identify themselves.

"I lost my boy"

Outside the shattered gymnasium on Sunday, Svetlana Debloyeva, 42, clutched a picture of her 11-year-old son Zaur, who was unaccounted for. "I lost my boy," she cried as she approached the building, where she had been squeezed in among the more than 1,100

Regional Emergency Situations Minister Boris Dzgoyev said Sunday that 326 people, including 159 children, were killed-three of them children who died overnight. More than 540 people were wounded—mostly children. Medical officials said 423 people remained

Dzgoyev also said 35 attackers-heavily armed and explosive-laden men and women who were reportedly demanding independence for Chechnya-were killed in 10 hours of battles that shook the area around the school with gunfire and explosions. Including the militants, at least 361 people died in the tragedy.

"What happened was a terrorist act that was inhuman and unprecedented in its cruelty," Putin said in his televised speech. "It is a challenge not to the president, the parliament and the government but a challenge to all of Russia, to all of our people. It is an attack on

Putta acknowledged Russia's weaknesses, but blamed it on the fall of the Soviet Union, on foreign foes seeking to tear apart Russia. and on corrupt officials. He said Russians could no longer be "carefree" and urged all of them to confront terrorism.

Putin promised to overhaul the law enforcement organs, which he acknowledged had been infected by corruption.

"We are obliged to create a much more effective security system and to demand action from our law enforcement organs that would be adequate to the level and scale of the new threats," he said.

Resignation

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1787. Senes of 2004

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North Ossetian Interior Minister Kazbek Dzantiyev tendered his resignation on Sunday morning. "After what happened in Beslan, I don't have the right to occupy this post as an officer and as a man," Itar-Tass quoted Dzantiyev as saying.

Itar-Tass quoted an unidentified intelligence official as saying Saturday that the school assault was financed by Abu Omar As-Seyf, an Arab who allegedly represents al-Qaida in Chechnya, and was masterminded by Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev.

The militants seized the school on the first with explosives-including bombs hanging

Despite the stifling heat inside the packed gym, the hostage-takers refused to allow in

food or water. The children were likewise forbidden to use the toilet or drink tap water.

By Friday morning, many children had lost consciousness," said Sima Albegova, the school cook. Those who were still hanging on with their last strength started peeing on their shoes and drinking their urine. They would take a few gulps and then cry. The urine ate away at their lips, which were chapped and bitten to the blood."

Diana Gadzhinova, a 14-year-old pupil who survived the carnage, said some of her starving classmates ate the flowers that they had brought for their teachers on the first day of school in Russia.

A freed hostage said a militant told her: "If Puttn doesn't withdraw forces from Chechnya and doesn't free our arrested brothers, we'll blow everything up," according to the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper.

Russian officials said the bloodshed began when explosions were apparently set off by the militants—possibly by accident—as emergency workers entered the school courtyard to collect the bodies of hostages killed in the initial raid Reports from AP and AFP on Wednesday.

Russia-Chechnya feud dates back to 1700s

MOSCOW-The conflict between Russia and the tiny Caucasian republic of Chechnya goes back three centuries to the early 1700s, when Czar Peter the Great used the mountainous region separating Europe and Asia as a staging post for his expedition against Persia.

Russian expansionism and the arrival of Cossack settlers provoked the Chechens, one of several Muslim peoples in the Caucasus, to rise up in rebellion, notably under the leadership of Mansur Ushurma from 1785 to 1791.

During the first half of the 19th century, Chechnya was one of the bastions of Islamic rebels fighting for independence in the Caucasus, with Imam Shamyl leading a "holy war" from 1834 to 1859. A further insurrection followed from 1877 to 1878

Between 1917 and 1924, prior to the formation of the Soviet Union, the Chechens joined with other peoples in the region in fighting the Russian presence—not just that of the Bolsheviks but also the White Russians opposing them

Under Soviet rule, the Chechens and the Ingushetians were formed into autonomous regions, then united in 1934 into a single region that became a republic in 1936.

Stalin dissolved the republic in 1944, deporting large numbers of Chechens and Ingusherians for alleged collaboration during World War II with Nazı Germany which was interested in the oil fields on the Caspian Sea. They were "pardoned" in 1957 and the Chechen-Ingush republic restored.

Soviet Army Gen. Djokhar Dudayev was elected president in 1991 and in November of that year declared unilateral independence.

The Ingusherians withdrew from the republic in December 1992 following fighting along the Chechen-Ingush border.

In December 1994, Moscow sent in 40,000 troops to crush the independence movement. The fighting ended in August 1996 after more than 50,000 people, most of them civilians, had died. The Russian withdrawal was completed in January 1997.

Russia launched a second offensive to wipe out separatism on Oct. 1, 1999 under then President Boris Yelisin and then Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who succeeded Yeltsin in

day of classes on Wednesday, herding hundreds of children, parents who had been dropping their kids off, and other adults into the school gym. The militants wired the gym

from basketball hoops.

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Christian bloc joins fund drive for gov't

From page A1

A group of economists from the University of the Philippines had warned that the country faced economic collapse in two to three years unless the government curbed the public sector deficit and debt. The public sector debt stood at P5.3 trillion as of September 2003.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said donating cash, jewelry or even text messages to the cash-strapped government was "good," but the country needed "permanent" solutions to its fiscal problem.

There were other ways of significantly easing the problem "like paying the correct taxes," Drilon said.

Overseas drive

Bayanihan Fund.

The CCBP is also set to tap Christian churches overseas for the fund-raising drive. The JIL alone

has 33 chapters all over the world. "We will appeal to member churches Filipinos abroad. abroad will be more than willing to help keep the country from

collapsing," Magbanua said. He said the second offering in churches would not be compulsory but it would be encouraged. The CCBP still has to discuss how to collect

such contributions. Magbanua said the CCBP would propose that a member of the council be tapped as a representative to the Bayanshan Fund to ensure its proper use when turned over to the government.

"There seems to be enthusiasm among people about helping out to solve the crisis People in church also want to be represented," said Magbanua, who represents the CCBP in the recently created Presidential Commission Moral Values, which is chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

Visible projects

Magbanua the council would want the government to use its contributions for visible projects such as school buildings and other infrastructure.

"The fund should be used for things like school buildings so that government money could be used for debt servicing," he said.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman earlier said that safeguards like enabling law should be put in place before the Bayanihan Fund was used.

Revenues, aside from those obtained through taxes and other regular sources, were "subject to appropriation Congress," he said.

Taxing Church

Certain officials and legislators had proposed that the Church be taxed to raise funds

Drilon sald he was not prepared to support a measure that would impose taxes on the Catholic Church.

He also said he was not supportive of the proposal as this would violate the principle of the separation of the State and Church.

Ms Arroyo herself had rejected the proposal to tax the Church, but Finance

Undersecretary Grace Tan said only religious services or nonprofit activities that fulfilled the objective of spreading religion, such as baptismal, matrimonial and funeral services,

were tax-exempt.

The Catholic Church is asking the government to study the possibility of giving back a small part of the peoples' taxes to their religious sects for the members' development.

Rosales last week said a religion tax need not be separate from what the people were already paying but could be a percentage of the current taxes that could be given back to the taxpayer's religious organizations.

This practice is being done in Germany where the state collects from the people a tax for the Church, according to Drilon.

He said he was against it because "it will be using the government structure to collect taxes" for the Church, and thus would violate the separation of Church and State.

Because in effect it will be using the Bureau of Internal Revenue to collect for the Church," Drilon said. With a report from Carlito Pablo

Convert chapels into classrooms, solon urges

BECAUSE churches are averse to being taxed, a congressman is suggesting that they help the govern-

churches and congregations to con-

"The religious sector can contribute by allowing public schools to use their chapels as temporary classrooms," Albano said in a statement.

The lawmaker noted that this measure would not disrupt religious services, particularly in the provinces, because the chapels and church buildings were being used only once a week or twice at the most-on Wednesdays and Sundays.

leaders and other church workers to canang's proposed 2005 budget

They will definitely be A-1 teachers because of their vast expenence in basic education," he said. "While teaching academic subjects, they can inculcate in the minds of their stu-

Albano said the Department of Education could coordinate with churches in making his proposal

As of the end of 2003, public schools had a backlog of 44,000 classrooms and 49,000 teachers, according to Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP. Camarines Sur).

In another statement, Andaya,

contained P1 billion for the hiring of 10,000 new teachers.

In addition to new teachers, the proposed budget provided P3.2 billion for the construction of new classrooms.

Andaya said the Department of Education was programmed to spend P810 million next year for textbooks and instructional materials, and P1 billion for desks and armchairs.

Funding for education would not be cut during the budget hearings by Congress, he said, as "literacy should not be a casualty of the fiscal crisis."

"Investments in human capital" development are not postponable," he said. Carlito Pablo





Left to Right "Police Superintendent Louis Tiray Oppus, Police Superintendent Leo Angelo Diel Lauteria, Police Superintendent Island Barbez Rimag, Police Superintendent Dianica Carbonel Borromea, Senior Police Officer 2 Alejendro Asturia Monsala, Senior Police Officer 2 Octavio Tangsoy Rivero, Senior Police Officer 2 Geronino Reyes Manalo, Senior Police Officer 1 Roman Avestruz Garrido, Police Officer 3 Lorenzo Detopenez Guevara, Police Officer 3 Annie Rose Denuna Alvarado

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT DIONICIO CARBONE, BORROMEO -Chief of the Station Invostigation and Detective Management Branch of the Catoocan Ony Police Station

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT JOURE

LADU-LADU CITY

TIRDY OFFUS +Chief of Lapu-Lapu

City Police Station in Barangay Pustok.

POUCE SUPERINTENDENT LEO ANGELO DEL LEUTERO + Bopus Group Director of Regional Special Action unit in Camp Bagong Dwg. Bicutan, Taguig.

POLICE SUPERINTENDENT ISAIAS BANEZ TONOG +Officer-in-Charge of Office based in Camp Carlos Delgado, Catannan, Northern Samac

HON-COMMISSIONED DEFICIES SEMOR POLICE OFFICER 2 OCTAVIO

TANGSAY RIVERO - Traffic Management Group, Traille Division of the Jegarpi City Potice Station in Albay Province.

POLICE OFFICER 3 ANNIE ROSE DENUNA ALVARADO + Legai investigator, Police Community Relations Officer and Desk Officer of the Westign's and Children Dask of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (PACER) In Clavaci City.

SEMOR POLICE OFFICER 2 GERONIMO REYES MANALO -Regional Intelligence and towastigation Densitin, PRO Calabarron based in Carno Vicente Lim

In Calemba City, Laguna

SEMIOR POLICE OFFICER 2 ALEIANORO ASTURIA MONSALE +Chief of Police Community Relations of Police Precincs 2 of the State City Police Office, Police Regional Office 6 and a family, Juvenile Protection and Gender Specialist

SEMOR POLICE OFFICER 1 ROMEO AVESTRUZ GARRIDO - Intelligence and Investigation PNCO of Police Regional Mobile Group 8 detailed with the Regional Anti-Regal Drug-Special Operations Tests Force (RAID-SOTF 8) in Capoocats, Leyte

POLICE OFFICER 3 LORENZO DETOPEREZ GUEVARA -Chief, Intelligence and Operations PNCO





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He also urged priests, nuns, lay committee, noted that Mala-

go magni atamorie. Radiotelestrativo de la garante de la grante de la pera el fisione del processor de processor de la financia de la companya de la financia del la companya de la financia de la companya de la compan

ment through public education. Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (Kampi, Isabela) urged the Catholic Church, Iglesia ni Cristo and other

vert their chapels into classrooms.

volunteer as teachers at the chapels.

dents the religious aspects of life."

an official act.

chair of the House appropriations

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THE METROBANK FOUNDATION SEARCH FOR THE

LICEMENIN



Discount offered to poor ...

From page Al

AC3 president Soule Mercado said Napocor misled the public by saying it was facing financial problems, when in fact corruption and other irregularities remained rampant in the power firm

Mercado said AC3 was discussing with lawyer-members possible legal action to prevent the implementation of the increase.

Unjustifiable

The Freedom from Debt Coaltion, for its part, said the increase was unjustified

"Consumers should not be made to bear any more additional burdens from the flawed decisions of the government and its onerous transactions with the private secton" the FDC said in a statement.

It said Napocor was losing money because for every kilowatt hour the utility firm was paying independent power producers (IPPs) to deliver, it was shelling out almost the same amount for electricity that was neither being used nor produced.

"They have been charging us for a big part of this undelivered electricity until the publicity stunt of President Macapagal-Arroyo in June 2002 when she reduced the PPA (purchased power adjustment) but did not change the contracts with the IPPs," the FDC said.

"This led to more losses for Napocor, which we will now pay for with this 98-centavo in-

Napocor generates its own power which it sells to power dismbutors, but it also buys electricity from IPPs, companies that were given generous incentives by the Ramos administration to put up plants in the country to solve the power crisis in the early 1990s.

Declare increase illegal

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, a fisherfolk group, urged the Supreme Court to declare as illegal the rate hike granted to Napocor.

"Like a thief in the night, the ERC sneaked in this highly revolting rate increase while the people

were taking a rest from a week of sumers for these losses. hard work and less pay. The approval was railroaded, bizarrely illegal and grossly detestable in the highest order," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

The ERC approved the increase when hearings were still in progress, according to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

In a text message to the INQUIR-Ex, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said the administration was looking for ways to cushion the impact on the poor.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to ensure that the less privileged among our countrymen are protected from any subsequent rate adjustment by power distributors and the foremost cushioning mechanism is the lifeline discount rate," Perez said.

Aside from strictly implementing the power discounts, Perez said Ms Arroyo had ordered him to "find out if its application can be extended beyond the life provided for by Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act)."

Lifeline rate

In an interview with RMN radio, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye explained that the lifeline rate would give a 50-percent discount to households using 50 kWh or less a month, 35 percent for those consuming between 51 and 70 kWh a month, and 20 percent for those using 71 and 100 kWh a month.

"The small power consumers account for one third of the customers in Meralco's (Manila Electric Co.) franchise area and a quarter of the consumers outside the franchise," Bunye said.

Perez said Ms Arroyo had likewise ordered an all-out war to regain millions of pesos worth of power lost to pilferage and inefficiencies of utility firms like Merarco to minimize or avert further power rate increases.

"Power is no longer cheap so we all need to join hands to conserve it and use it wisely," the energy secretary said.

The National Economic and Development Authority earlier said power theft and systems loss were among the reasons for the country's high power costs because utility firms charge the con-

As the government moves to minimize the shock of Napocor's rate increase, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda is asking why consumers in Luzon were slapped a P1.23per-kWh increase against the rate hike of 22.02 centavos in the Visayas and 26.65 centavos in Mindanao.

We are puzzled, if not intrigued by the huge disparity in the rate increases because Luzon will effectively foot P31 billion of the P33-billion adjustment while the Visayas will pay a mere P868 million and Mindanao only P1.8 billion," Safceda said.

He said critics might interpret the disparity as a payback for her performance in the recent election where she narrowly lost in Luzon while winning significantly in the Visayas.

Salceda said the ERC could have based its decision on the location of the IPPs as most of them were based in Luzon and that these power plants had more foreign exchange loans compared to plants in the Visayas and Min-

"Surely we can devise a pricing mechanism to equalize or equitably allocate the pain," he said.

Overall, Salceda rated the power rate adjustment as "the most substantial effort by the Arroyo administration."

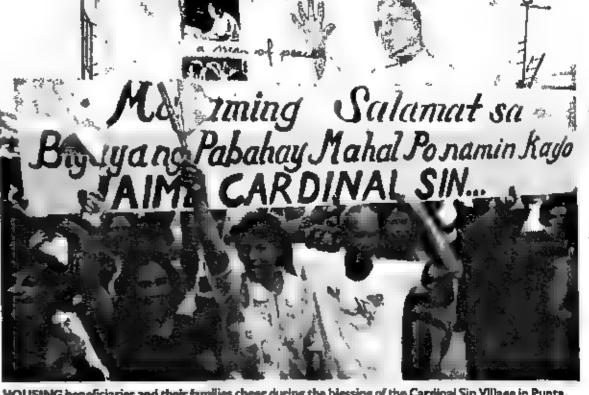
Two business leaders in Cebu City urged the public to accept the power rate increase.

Saving power better

Carlos Co, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCCI) Visayas, said the business sector in Cebu recognized that Napocor needed the increase to help stem its huge losses.

Jose Ng, regional governor of PCCI, also believed that the increase was inevitable because the increasing fuel prices caused the generating cost to go up.

"We just have to agree and respect the decision (of ERC) but we hope that the decision (was) based on fairness (for) all the sectors," Ng said. With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Delfin I Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luson Bureau; and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau



HOUSING beneficiaries and their families cheer during the blessing of the Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Santa Ana, Manila.

Poor own more than

ex: "I have long prayed for a house of my own-even if it's just a pigeon house, as long as we will never be evicted from it again."

Evicted squatters

Correz knows only too well what it's like to be homeless. Twice in the past, she and her husband, with their four children in tow, were driven out of rooms in a slum area because they could not pay the rent.

They were the very people that the cardinal wanted to help, said Fr. Mark Munda, parish priest of the nearby lna ng Laging Saklolo (Mother of Perpetual Help) parish.

Munda said beneficiaries would not have to pay a single centavo for their units, since only the poorest of the poor would be chosen.

Most of the families in the first batch still live along the Pasig River or under bridges in Manila, where Sin served as archbishop for 29 years before he retired last year. The new homeowners will move in at the end of the month, when the parish shall have worked out electricky and water supplies.

Another qualification, Munda added was that beneficiaries the rent could now help send

should be active in parish and commurnty work despite their poverty.

Parish work

Cortez has served the Ina ng Laging Sakiolo since 1989, long before she had a family. As a young woman, she also sang in the parish chots. Even now with four kids, and doing laundry for a living, she finds time to do volunteer work for Ugnayon, a community-based Church outreach program.

Her husband drives a jeepney three times a week. He used to nag her to quit her responsibilines for Ugnayon so she could get a full time job. Instead, she volunteered to help build the village, never guessing that her family would soon be living there.

When disheartened by neediness, Cortez said, she would find comfort in the lesson of the sparrows in the Bible, which she likes to share with other poor people: "If God takes care of the birds, how can He not take care of us? it's natural to lose heart from time to time; but like the birds, let us trust the Lord completely."

Her faith has been rewarded. Cortez said the P1,500 that she and her husband used to pay for

their two eldest children back to school.

The land for the compound, bought by friends of the cardina., is registered in the name of the Serviam Foundation, which Sin established before he retired

Slow construction

According to Munda, construction of the next building is under way, if slowly, because funds were not exactly flowing. Each unit, which has its own kitchen and bathroom, costs P70,000.

"We're calling on kind hearts to help in completing this village," Munda said.

The Serviam Foundation and the Catholic charismanic group Couples for Christ through its Gawad Kalinga program-are working together on the project.

Munda said residents should live a life worthy of the support they would be getting from the Archdiocese of Manila, which would oversee the community.

A long-term goal is for them to et given livelihood loans, a he ... added, because it wasn't just a question of providing shelter for the poor. "We want a transformation of lives here "



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Fil-Am preaches honesty to fellow taxi drivers

From page A)

and the last persons [foreigners interact, with] when departing for their places of origin," Filipmo-American cabbie Nestor Sulpico told members of the Taxi Drivers Association of the Philippines.

Sulpico, 47, grabbed media attention in the United States two months ago after he returned \$70,000 worth of black pearls that a passenger had left in the back seat of his cab in New York City

He spoke to the TDAP last week at the Department of Tourism. "As taxi drivers, we have a big role to play in the country's tourism industry," he told his audience. "A visitor's first expenence will determine his future trips here."

More Sulpicos

The department is hosting Sulpico's visit. Tourism officials earlier cited the driver for his honesty, saying it brought honor to the country and reinforced trust in Filipino workers around the world.

"We are trying to produce more Nestor Sulpicos," said Tourism Undersecretary Rolando Reyes, who attended last week's gathering. "That is why we wanted our local taxi drivers to meet him, a modern-day hero

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> > OCWs in Iraq:

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MEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Wirner will be kinnelled during

the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.



SULPICO

whom they can emulate as role model."

Honesty is an innate Filipino virtue, according to Reyes. "It's only because of certain circumstances that some are tempted to do the wrong thing "

Since he arrived on Aug 21, Sulpico has also been cited by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Senate and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Bureau of Immigration has approved his application for dual citizenship.

Upon learning that the ambition of Sulpico was to become a nurse, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing in New York's East Side district offered him a scholarship.

Anative of Laganes, Iloilo, Sulpico migrated to the United States in 1992 and later became an American citizen. For lack of a college degree, he found employment as a cab driver, earning \$80 per 12-hour shift. He lives in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx borough.

Nursing hopes

As a nurse, he said in a previous interview, he could better provide for his 14-year-old daughter who lives with his parents in Iloilo. He is estranged from his wife.

On July 17, Lawrence Policastro, a hedge fund manager, left a backpack containing rare South Pacific black pearls in Su pico's cab. The driver used a cell phone, which was also in the bag, to locate the dumbstruck owner and ask where the pearls might be returned

Policastro offered him a \$500 reward, which Sulpico accepted with much reluctance. "I just wanted to show people that it pays to be honest," he explained.

The psychic reward was even better, the cabbie was pleased to announce, "I feel like I'm in heaven. People know me, and they know what I did. I get a lot of praise."

But he's "not blinded by it," he said. "Tve always known that if you do something good, something nght, at's going to make you very happy."

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Desk Editors Cenon B. Bibe, Ester G. Dipasupil

PNCC declares 2-day holiday on SLEX tolls

By Clarissa S. Batino

MOTORISTS will enjoy a tollfree South Luzon Expressway

or SLEX today and tomorrow. The Philippine National Construction Corp. is implementing a toll holiday for two available for comment yesdays along the SLEX as a way of refunding motorists for having collected 20 centavos more in tollway fees for about two weeks in July.

Toll free

Starting 12 a.m. today until 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 7, travel along the SLEX from Alabang in Muntiniupa to Calamba in Laguna wili be

The PNCC said in a statement that the 48-hour tollfree operations was in line with the order of the Tollway Regulatory Board to refund motorists using the SLEX.

"The toll holiday does not include the Skyway segment-the elevated section from Buendia to Bicutan-and the at grade level from Magailanes to Ala-

Navotas

renews

dump

contract

THE NAVOTAS town council

has renewed the contract for

the operation of the Tanza

controlled garbage facility,

Mayor Toby Tiangco told the

Tiangeo said the council

approved a resolution last

week extending the contract

of Phihppine Ecology Systems

Inc. to operate the dump for

as the militant group Pa-

malakaya asked new Envi-

ronment Secretary Michael

Stinking health hazard?

controlled dump had become

an ecological and health haz-

emanating from the facility.

Earlier, Tlangco chided

Obando officials for protesting

the legally operating garbage

facility while numerous illegal

open dumps were scattered

over the Bulacan town. He

said the stench could be com-

PHILIPPINE DAILY INCURRER

Obando, Bulacan.

ing from those sites.

Pamalakaya said that the

Defensor to close the dump.

The contract renewal came

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

INQUIRER yesterday.

one more year.

bang," said the PNCC in a statement

But based on its earlier statement, the TRB wanted the PNCC to implement a toll holiday for five days. No PNCC or TRB official was

Overcharged

The PNCC had overcharged SLEX users by 20 centavos for almost two weeks in July when it charged a 72-centavo per kilometer rate.

The TRB asked the PNCC to determine the volume of vehicles that passed through the SLEX between July 5 and July 15 when the rates were higher by 20 centavos per km against what was eventually approved by the regulator.

The TRB ordered the PNCC to impose a uniform rate of 52 centavos per km on both the SLEX and the North Luzon Expressway for cars and jeeps effective July 16. The toll fee was raised from 33 centavos

For light trucks and vans, toll along the SLEX was also reduced from P1.44 per km. The fee for trucks and buses was also reduced from P2.16

The 30-km SLEX stretches from Alabang to Calamba while the NLEX which runs from Bauntawak to Sta. Ines in Pampanga measures 83 km.

Higher still

The 52-centavo per km rate is still higher than the 47-centavo per km rate approved by the TRB.

The rates for both SLEX and NLEX are now 52 centavos per km for cars and jeeps from 33 centavos, P1.04 per km for light trucks and vans from 65 centavos and P1.55 per km for heavy trucks from 99 centavos.

The new toll rate translates to an SLEX fee of P15 for cars and jeeps, P30 for light trucks and vans and P45 for heavy trucks. For NLEX, the rates are P41 for cars and peeps, P82 for light trucks and P123 for heavy trucks.

Drive vs cellphone theft goes to stores

By Luige A. del Puerto

STORE owners in Greenhills, said San Juan, and the Ortigas Center have agreed to monitor their sale of cellular phones as the police began to focus on possible outlets for stolen mobile units, a police official said.

Starting this week, stall owners will be required to provide the police an inventory of second-hand mobile phones in stock, according to Sr. Supt. Jesus Jose Samson, chief of the San Juan police.

Widespread problem

Police officials and businessmen met last week to discuss ways of preventing stolen cellphones from being sold in Greenhills, Ortigas Center,

and other commercial areas. This widespread problem of cellphone theft is acknowledged by both sellers and the police but is largely undocu-

"We are doing this to avoid ard. They also expressed disrobbers and thieves from selling their stolen goods in gust at the stench allegedly Greenhills," Samson said over the phone. The Navotas dump is near

Authorities suspect that some stolen phones end up in simply check the sellers' pho-Greenhills stores.

Under the scheme, store owners will provide the police a list of cellphones they have on sale and those already sold.

The list will include the

brand name and serial number of the phones, Samson

Each stall must also get a certificate from the office of the police chief stating that all its phones have been acquired legally.

To make it convenient for the businessmen. Samson said he would be visiting Greenhills regularly to talk to

Lawyer Ricardo Lim, general manager of Virra Mall. confirmed the agreements. But he said stall owners have only agreed to "do their best" in complying with the agree-

Documentation

Persons who seli phones to stalls would be asked to fill up a form, and leave his or her picture. The police have started distributing standard forms to stall owners.

"This would discourage robbers, and also help the shops avoid breaking the country's antifencing laws," said Insp. Miguel Nueva España, Greenhills police precinct commander.

This way, the police can tos or the phones' serial numbers, and match them with police records.

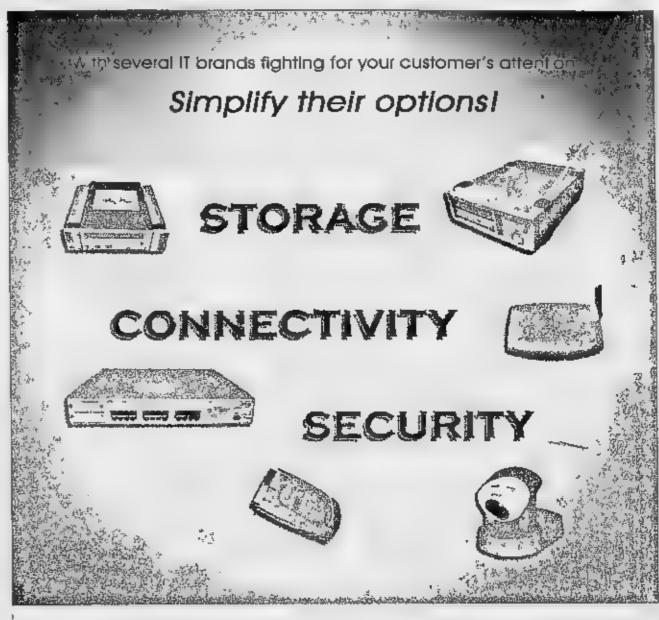
This would help trace if a phone on display has been stolen or not, Nueva España

opment Authority (MMDA) yesterday that illegally parked provincial buses had been causing heavy traffic in warned provincial bus drivers against some parts of Edsa. parking along Edsa lest they be banned from entering the metropolis. Fernando also noted that the im-MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said proper maneuvering of provincial

MMDA warns it may ban provincial buses

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Devel- in his weekly radio program on dzBB buses on Edsa was also causing traffic buildup.

"These bus drivers have no right to park their units on the street and impede traffic flow," the MMDA chair Margaux G. Ortiz



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Flooding blamed on neglect



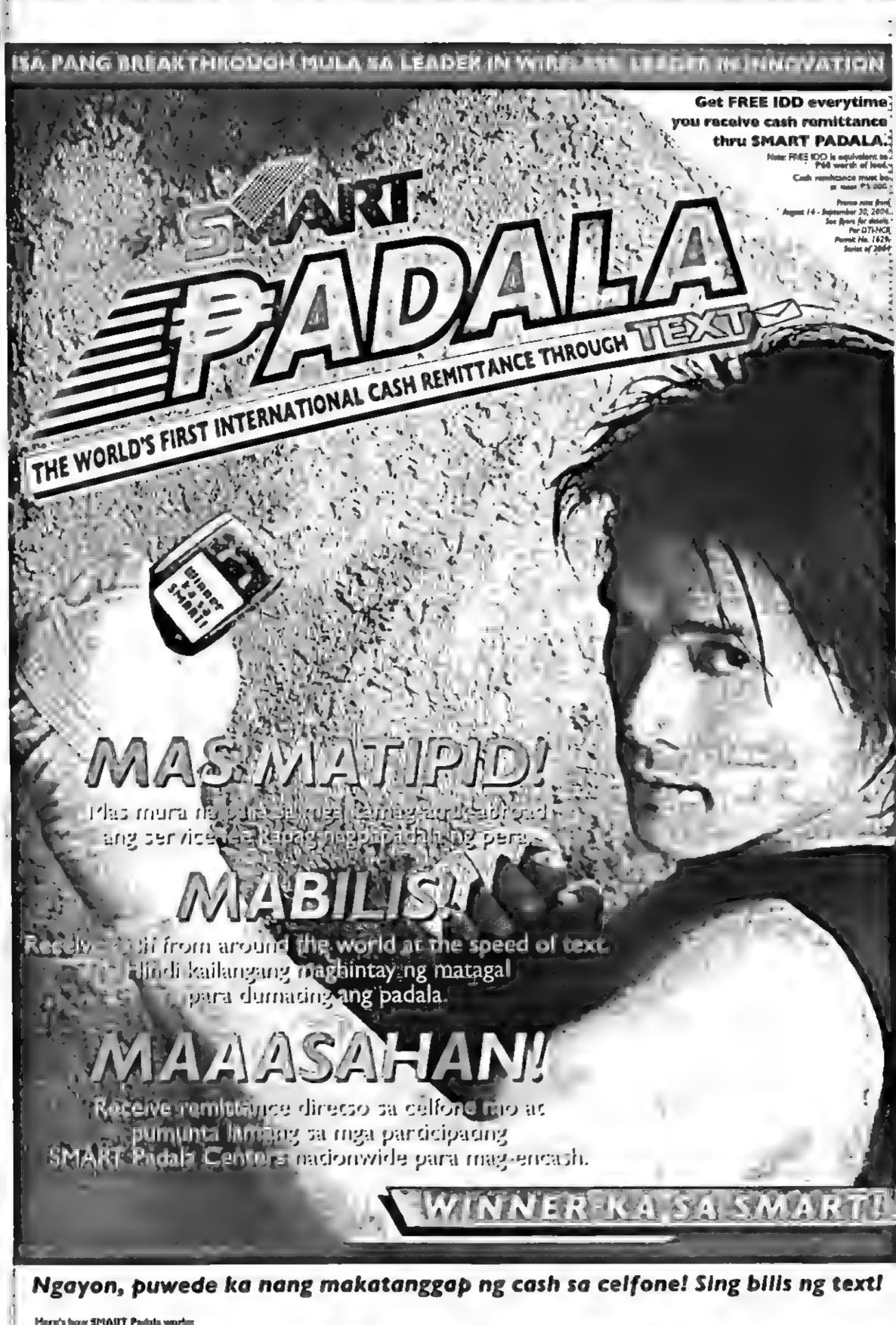
THE NEGLECT and disuse of flood control pumps has resultin continuous flooding in the Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MMDA Chair Ba-

yani Pernando said yesterday that the Department of Public Works and Highways abandoned the pumping stations when it gave up its flood control responsibilities in 2001. Mergaux Ortis Application forms and requirements must be completed at least one week before the scheduled qualifying examinations.

Schedule of Qualifying Exams starts in November 2004.

Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursday: Preparatory to Grade Two Friday: Nursery and Kindergorten Suturday: High School I, II, and III



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



Jenny fires 68, trails Kerr by 6

Filipina remains in 3rd place

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois-The Philippines' Jennifer Rosales birdied five of the first nine holes on the way to a four-under-par 68 on Saturday to remain in third place, six shots off new leader Cristie Kerr, going into the flnal round of the State Farm Classic.

Rosales matched flightmate Kerr burdie-for-birdie in a tornd five-hole stretch in the front nine but tripped on successive missed-green bogeys on the seventh and eighth to stay back at 15-under 201.

Although the Filipina picked up a stroke on No. 9, she wouldn't get another until the 15th for her nines of 33-35.

Kerr continued to amaze with her second straight 9under 63 to take a four-stroke lead over Christina Kim and a 21-under 195 aggregate on the Rail Golf Course.

Kerr, seeking her third victory of the year and fourth in eight full seasons on the LPGA Tour, set the best 54-hole score on the tour this season. She also moved into position to threaten the 72-hole mark of 27 under set by Annilka Sorenstam in the 2001 Standard Register PING.

> Kim took a four-stroke lead into the round but could do no better than a 71 on Saturday.

She stood at 199, two ahead of Rosales, who is bidding to firush in the top 10 for the fourth time this season.

Canadian Nancy Harvey had a career-best 64 to join Mi Hyun Kim (66), Han Hee-won (68) and Suzann Pettersen (69) at 13 under.

Kerr made a long eagle putt on the par-5 fifth hole and also had eight birdies and a bogey, playing her first seven holes in 6 under.

"I'm not trying to shoot this low, I promise," Kerr said. You'll shoot as low as you can shoot if you do all of the (little) things well."

Kim, a 20-year-old Californian looking for her first LP-GA Tour victory, was frustrated by the slow pace of play, with the final threesome of Kim, Kerr and Rosales spending more than five hours on the course.

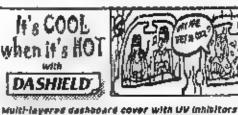
·Tams, Eagles keep tie for top spot /A26

.US Open: Mary boots out Maria aum (r- 7 p m.) and 11 p m., Star Sports—Catch the third and fourth rounds at Flushing Meadows, New York, MOTOR SPORTS: 2004 F1



Beiglan Grand Prix Migh— Compiled by L. Manguist lights, 6 p.m., Star Sports—Relive the best racing moments in

BASKETBALL NBA Greatest Game—Cays va Bulla, Game 1989 Eastern 1st Round; 8 a.m. (r-12:30 a.m.); Solar Sports—Chicago's Michael Jordan purk on another dazzling show against Cleveland.



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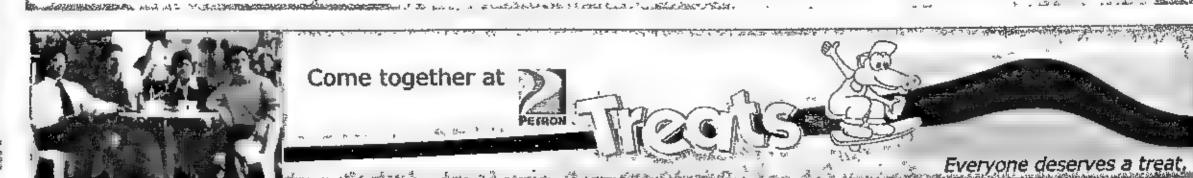
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Tams, Eagles keep tie for premier spot

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern Tamaraws and Ateneo Eagles chose not to budge from the top two spots as they downed their out-of-it foes vesterday in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

FEU and Ateneo, still tied with 10-3 slates, will vie for the twice-to-beat advantage when they battle at the end of the elimination round on Saturday. La Salle is still in the running for the same Final Four incentive at 9-4.

ter Ateneo proved steadler down the stretch with a 62-58 win over the National University Bulldogs.

Areneo saw a four-point lead in the final minute cut down to 57-56 as NU guard Alex Michat drilled in a triple.

Paolo Bugia struck for Ateneo, 59-56, and after an NU error, LA Tenorio, who led the Eagles with 11 points and 11 rebounds, split his freethrows for 60-56.

In junior play, Ateneo also remained in contention for the twice-to-beat bonus as the Eaglers whipped the Bullpups, 77-46.

Meanwhile, La Salle's Joseph Yeo, Ateneo's Doug Kramer, UP's Ira Buyco Jeff Chan and RJ Rizada teamed up and Adamson's Marvin Poloyapoy will for 31 points as FEU pummeled the Uni- miss their final elimination games for

versity of Santo Tomas Tigers, 66-57, af- incurring two unsportsmanlike fouls.

AUTEMED 62-Tenorio 11, Bugia 9, Kramer B, Intal 9, Tiu 7, Del Rosario 6, Escalone 4, Arao 3, Aguilar 2, Membrara 2, Barracoso 0, Oulmson 0.

18U SB Asoro 17, Malcontento 12, Fernandez 8, Mictat 7, Menduza 4, Moltena 4, Estolano 4, Catamora 2, Moradas 0, Malagueno 0, King 0.

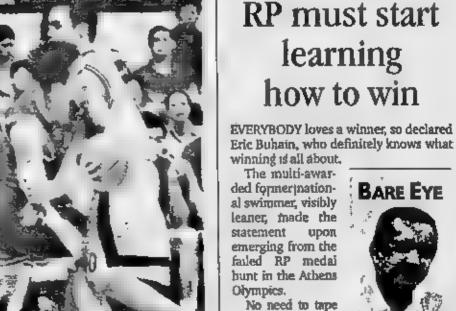
Quartets: 11-12, 28-22, 44-40, 62-56. THIRD GAME (Sts)

FELI 66—Chen 16, Rizada 15, Isip 9, Miranda 7, Santos 6, Curter 5, Vabut 2, Mangahas 2, Garda 2,

UST 57-Pribhdas 9, Luarzon 9, Evangelista 9, De Gearran B, Surnalinog B, Dunck B, Espiritu 4, Cortez 4, Vizcarra 2, Manching 0, Cuan 0, Aflera 0. Quarters: 16-8, 31-24, 50-34, 66-67



ATENEO'S Badjie del Rosario (left) tries to pass off Marion Mollena of NU. AUGUSTOBACIUZ



Eric Buhain, who definitely knows what **BARE EYE**

Trinidad

candidly. So did he mean nobody loved the Philippines, which again suffered a shameful setback after the ouster of its last two tackwondo jins, Tonette Rivero and Donald Geisler at the Faliru Olympic Hall?

the words of the

Philippine Sports

Commissioner chair,

who spoke clearly,

No, no, no, Buhain, holding a tiny RP flag in his left hand, tried to explain.

"You see, everybody also loves great fighters," he said.

Because both Geisler and Rivero had oozed with valor in their losing bouts, Buhain did not appear too bothered by the RP delegation debacle in Athens.

Maybe he had prepared that statement ahead.

Or the words could've come at the spur of the moment.

Good thing for Buhain, because he could've not found a defense more apt for yet another failed RP Olympic medal hunt.

Both Geisler and Tonette did the Philippines proud with their gutsy, gritty stands. The very courageous RP campaigners

also succeeded in proving that we do have with us world-class taekwondo Geisler, said the RP delegation physician, was lucky to have had a foot ban-

dage for his fateful bout. The ankle bone actually got unhinged upon impact, but it snapped back into place, thanks to the plaster support.

We all saw in awe how Geisler had tried to keep fighting despite the crippling injury.

As for tiny Rivero, she drew rave comments after she fearlessly slugged it out with the bigger Greek foe, who used to campaign as a heavyweight, while home-, town fans had the Olympic hall shaking with roaring support for their bet.

There was this feeling that, given a fair shake in the judging, Rivero could've won that big one and assured herself of no less than a silver medal.

Those brave, proud moments have evidently lessened the pain and brutality that usually come with losing.

But after neighbors Thailand and Indenesia got away with their share of gold medals, three and one respectively, RP, it must be stated, will have to count among the big failures in Athens.

That's the reality, and our sports officials would do well to acknowledge this.

Why? It's an accepted axiom that those who are able to realize what defeat is all about strive doubly hard to avoid future setbacks.

The terror of defeat, in a way, could create future winners who normally should put it in their daily regimen the ability to avoid succeeding disasters.

The Olympics is no exception.

The peaceful Summer Games in Athens was made possible after the tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympics which had become synonymous to ter-

Of course, of great help was the fear and warning that soared following the unthinkable Sept. 11, 2001 attack at the World Trade Center in New York.

It was just too tragic that, although the Athens Olympics got spared from blood and death, Russia, which had scored big in the Summer Games, paid a high price with that terror attack that cost the lives of many school children.

That, a peaceful Olympiad for the Russian bloodbath, should rank as the dirtiest bargain of all time. It could've set a world record in terror and gloom.

Yes, there's a need to know everything about losing in order to avoid future de-

Here at home, the ready suggestion after the failure in Athens was to go back to the drawing board.

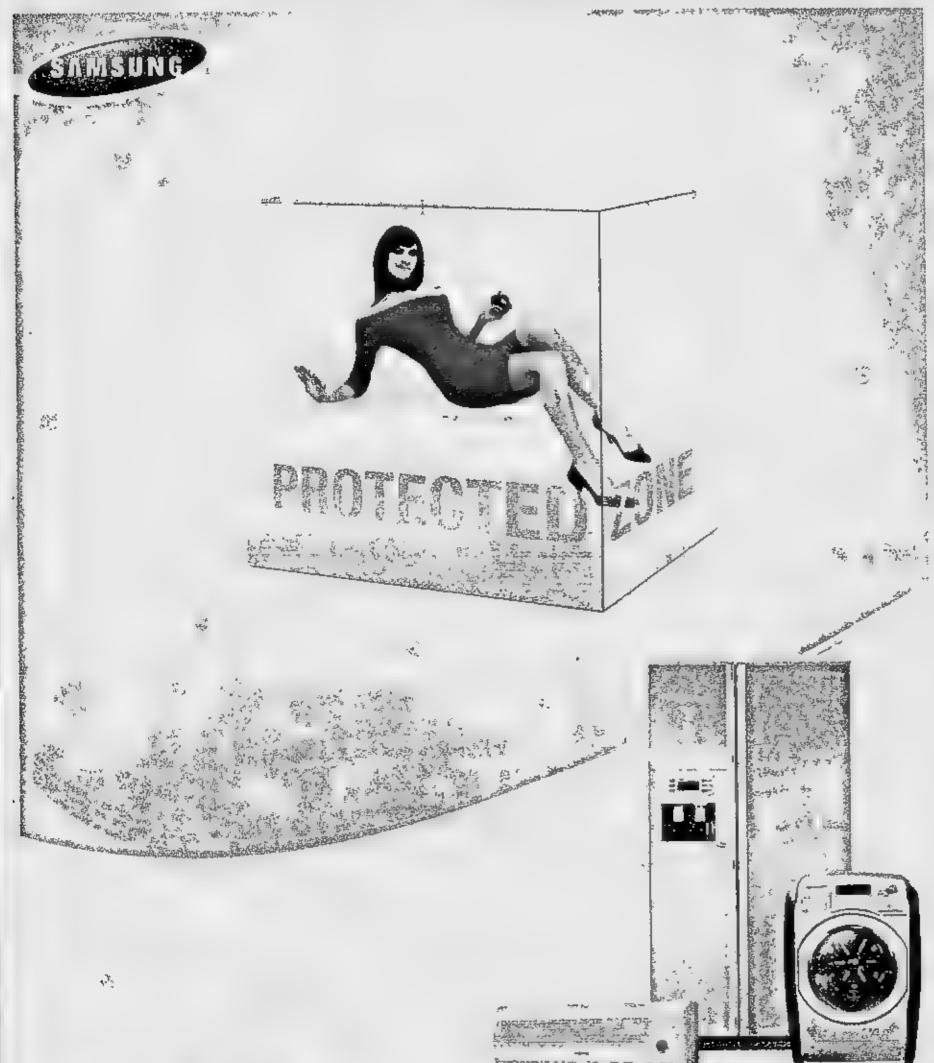
Everybody appears at a loss again, you know, just like after the Sydney Games from where the RP contingent returned shamed, empty-handed.

Who knows? Maybe Eric Buhain had actually felt the true pain and impact of defeat but had tried to hide it.

What's truly bothersome though was this reported suggestion that RP had failed to win a medal in Athens due to the shortage of prayers.

If it was Eric Buhain who had offered that conjecture, all we could do is pray he had been musquoted.

Nobody loves a perennial loser.



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IOC set to tackle Beijing events

WHEN the International Olympic Committee holds its next session in Singapore in July next year, the Philippines should lobby for the inclusion of new sports like billiards and bowling in the 2008 Beijing Games because it is in these sports where the Filipino athletes have a good chance of winning medals, including that elunve Olympic gold

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Daynt once said that the POC will but for the inclusion of bowling, billiards, dancesport wushu, a traditional Chinese sport, in Berjing because they believe the country may win its first ever gold medal in these sports.

FIQ and Philippine Congress Bowling head Steve Hon-

tiveros agreed, stressing that although the IOC has limited the number of events in the Olympic calendar, there is still the possibility 🖺 that bowling and wushu might be included in 3 the Bening Games.

There has been a strong universal lobby to include new sports in future Olympic Games but this was scuttled by the IOC mainly because the Olympic calendar is already overcrowded. The Games are literally bursting at the seams with more than 30 events in the competition

Still, the huge following of these new sports could help sway the IOC to change its mind. Billiards is played by close to one billion around the world while bowling boasts of more than 100 million active players. Dancesport, too, is not far behind in the number of enthusiasts addicted to it, ditto wishu and golf.

Bowling was held as a demonstration sport in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul where Fiipina Arianne Cerdeña won the gold medal. On the other hand, the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno has safely positioned himself at the top of the bowling scene by earning a spot in the International Hall of Fame and the Gunness Book of Records for being the one and only four-time winner of the prestigious World Cup. Another Filipino bowler, CJ Suarez, also won the World Cup last year.

In billiards, Puyat Sports' mainstays Efren "Bata" Reyes, Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are among the world's best.



AVAILABLE AT-LEAD NO APPLIANCE STORES NATIONW DE



Davao nips NCR on penalty kicks

By Musong R. Castillo

DAVAO, with goalie Levelyn Camarillo pulling off two saves, downed National Capital Region (NCR) in a penalty shootout, 4-2, yesterday to win the 2004 PFF-SuperFerry National Women's Pootball Championship at the Marikina

The younger but determined NCR booters gained a 2-2 tie earlier through a stroke of luck before Camarillo finally secured the win for the heavily favored Davaoeñas with a superb goal-tending display.

Davao was crusing to victory with 2-1 lead when defender Leonor Satorre put the ball in her own goal during a scramble in the 76th minute. Striker Merlo Albano scored both Davao goals in regulation.

NCR first equalized in the 37th when Clarissa Lazaro connected from short range.

"We had a tough time. We expected that since

LIFE GETS BETTER EVERYDAY.

teams get better during championship games," said Davao coach Melchor Anzures.

The event was co-organized by the PFF and the Marikina Football Association and backed by Mayor Mandes C. Fernando and the city government.

Meanwhile, floilo bagged third place after a 3-O demolition of Dumaguete earlier, The flonggos also won the Chris Monfort trophy in honor of the late secretary general of the PFF, for fair play.

Sheeryn Ambrocio first scored in the shootout for Dayao before Lazaro knotted it at 1-1. NCR goalie Louise Navarro was actually the first to deny an attempt by foiling an Albano try.

Camarillo, who won the best goalkeeper award, returned the favor by denying Patty Silva.

Satorre and Lomalyn Fama then scored for Davao while Samantha Nieras connected for NCR before Camarillo's other deflection off Martte Plaza led to the decisive 4-2 Davao lead.



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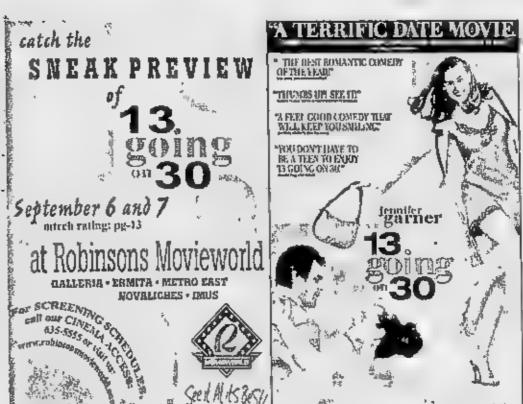
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Tomas, 2-1, yesterday to barge into the finals of the men's team event in the 2004 Milo Al. Students Tennis Championships at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig. PUP arranged a titular showdown with reigning UAAP champion La Saile, which swept College of Saint

Benilde, 3-0, in the

tournament organized

University of the

Philippines edged Uni-

MONDAY.

by CTW and supported by adidas, with Prince/Nassau as the official balls. In women's action, La Salle-A tripped UST, 2-1, to set up a title clash with sister team La Salle-B, which

blanked CSB, 3-0. NCAA arch rivals San Beda tangles with La Salle Greenhills for the high school grown.

Assumption collides with Poveda for the gurls' team title

LP 5-stag derby gets going today

MORE than 60 top-qualily fights are on tap when the Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag Derby gets going today at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum, Action starts at 5 p.m. in the backfights sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pageor Casino Riipino "It will be a reunion and battle royale of former Jean members, so we want to make this grand opening derby a memorable one," GCAP president Patrick Antonio said. Seeing action are Antonio, two-time Stagfighter of the Year Sonny Lagon Per Estrellado, Illo Yfiares, Richard Bates, Ma, Bobby Doromal, Jel and Joel Fernando. Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Ramon Mancenares Papilo Ngo. Boy de Roca and Blandy Tolenting, Also competing are NCA members Rep. Rudy Albano, Nene Aguilar Gerry Ramos and Boy Royo as well as Bullack Fortaleza, Ricichi Salto, Ashley Arayata, Eric de la Rosa, Manny and Arman Santos and Bong Villanueva. For inquirles. call 8731040, 8743910 or 0920-5609404.

Cutting Edge Binangonan solo champ

CUTTING Edge Sinango-

nan BJ, an entry of top Rizal breeder Boy Jieo and Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, emerged as sold cham. plon in last week's Netional Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Conseum. Jiao and Araneta fielded the high-breaking Dan Gray fowls to win the event with 6.5 points, beating the entries of Joe Laureno, Rep. Ronnie Puno and Rep. Rudy Albano, Jun Jingco, and eventual runner-up Biboy Enriquez, Riding high on its early lead in the Stapfighter of the Year race, Cutting Edge Binangonan BJ is expected to figure prominently tomorrow when the second leg of NGA 7-Stag Derby unfolds. Tomorrow's hosts In the event that has lured 46 entries are Enriquez and Raymond Velayo Meanwhile, NCA president ito Yñares has reminding all members not to field stags banded by the Pagba and Migba,

which are not accepted THUNDERBIRD in all Araneta derbres. "Officials of Pagba and ALIEN VS PREDATOR Migba have refused to furnsh as the official and Berma Cinema true copies of their (Bactarary 1st 879,2030 / 879,2029 screening records. Every ANADONDAS breeder knows that these records are very important in determining the Marie Name & State

Ynares said:

Taguig cagers down Baguio

TAGUIG-Host Forward Taguig kept its home record intact Saturday by getting back at the Bagulo Cardinals, 73-70, in a North division contest in the NBC national championship at the CP Tinga Memorial gym hera. The Cardinals appeared set to repeat over Taguig when they led 70-69 on back-to-back baskets with 1.40 to go. But the hosts fought each behind Bong Magsambol and Ogie Gumatay to turn the game. around. "It was a close call," said Taguig coach Danny Gavierres.

Arce repeats over RP's Rubillar

his life but came up short as he lost by split deeision to reigning World Boxing Council junior flyweight king Jorge Arce in their 12round bout yesterday at the El Toreo de Tijuana in Mexico.

A point was taken off Rubillar in the ninth round following an illegal blow behind Arce's head in an otherwise even fight where two of the judges had the champion wirning by 119-108 and 115-112. The third judge scored it 115-112

It was Arce's seventh defense of the crown he took from Korean Chot Yo Sam in 2002, and his

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FILIPINO Juanito Rubillar fought the fight of second victory over Rubillar. The duo first fought it out for the interim WBC junior fly title also in Tijuana in 2001, with the Los Mochis native prevailing over the Filipino by unanimous decision.

The victory improved Arce's win-loss-draw record to 37-3-1, with 27 KOs, while Rubillar's slate dipped to 33-8-7.

Meanwhile, top-ranked International Boxing Federation junior flyweight Wyndel Janiola suc-cumbed to a fifth-round technical decision at the hands of second-ranked Eric Ortiz in a scheduled 12-rounder. Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

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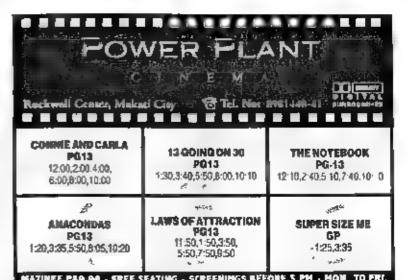
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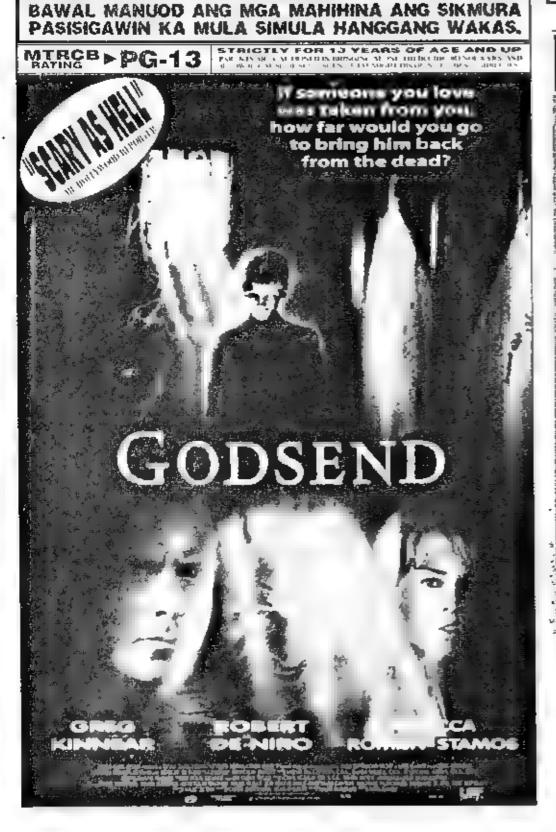
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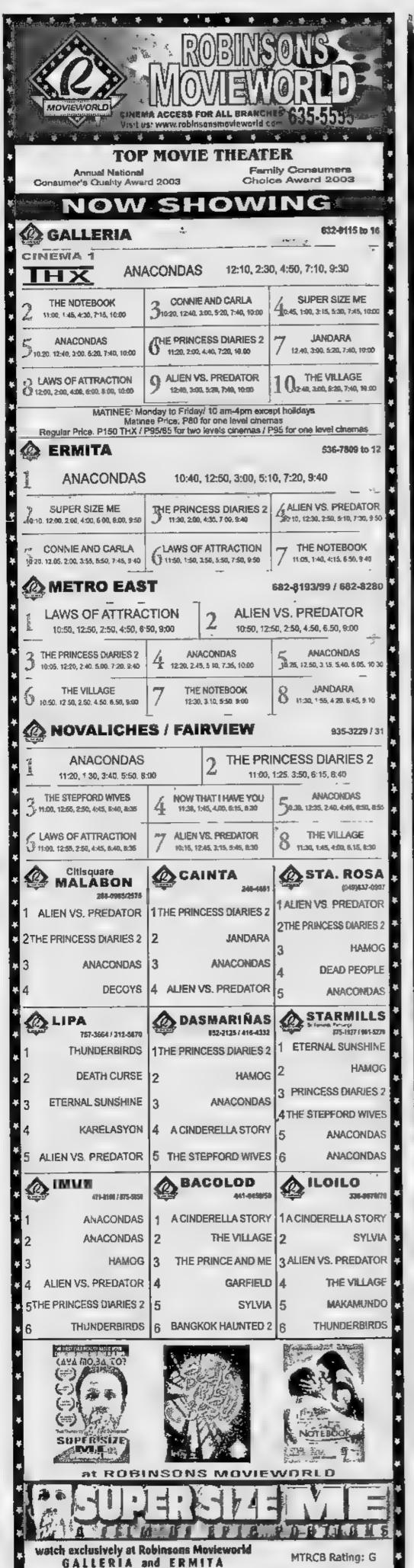






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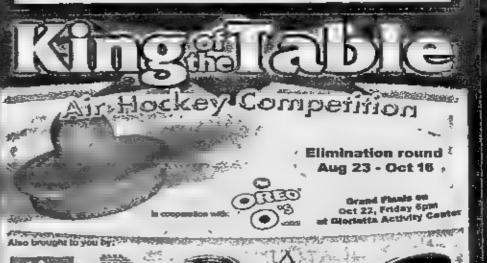
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GLORIETTA 4 - 11:40 am, 1:50 pm, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20,10:30

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La Salle, **UE** bets shine in t'kwondo

LA SALLES Gernelyn Aranzanso and University of the East's Rotrice Ashlie Lavalan stamped their class over their respective rivals yesterday in the women's junior division of the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Giorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

The 17-year-old Aranzanso, gold medal winner in the World Hwarang Championships, clobbered Monica Dianelo of Clark Field, 8-4, to bag the flyweight title.

The 14-year-old Lavalan, a blackbelter and gold medalist in the 5th Korean Open, sustained the momenturn of her 3-0 rout of Ma. Abigail Rustria in the semis and rolled to a 7-4 victory over Cristina Faye Ongpin, also of Clark Field, to claim the finweight crown,

Cathy Jane Hampac of Zamboanga trounced AIDA's Kristie Jane Manapsal, 6-4; Rubylin Mapa of the NTU Tigers downed Kathleen Roble of Cagayan, 6-2, while Elmie Rose Baradas nipped Jessica Joy Ballesteros of Cavite, 3-2, to win the flyweight, lightweight and featherweight crowns, respectively, at the close of the five-day event sconsored by top elecmanager forms of treatment and samedones by the Philippine Taekwondo Association.

Flyweight Jason Sinoy of General Santos City purumeled Vishmu Catarig of Muntinlupa, 11-5, to lead the winners in the men's side of the tournament.

UST's Giorgio von Gerri de Guzman, the 16-year-old mainstay of the national team, edged Dennis Resaba of UE, 4-2, to top the bantamweight division even as Edison Bagaipo took the finweight crown over Raffy Futolan of RPTC, who was disqualified after receiving 8 warnings for a 4-pt deducnon. Jurrie Bernardino of UST outhit Benedict Polloso of Rizal HS, 5-4, to claim the featherweight diadem.

Matches in the grade school category were still being fought at presstime.

Mendoza entry scores perfect 3

UNIKERALDED Arthur Mendoza of Agoncillo, Batangas, made his presence felt early by being the first to score 3 points in the 99-fight opening. salvo Saturday of the 16th Annual Ray-Showdown 7-Stag National Derby at the Rollgon Mega Cockpit. The event continues at 5 p.m. today with the second batch of some 50 new competitors aiming to qualify for Wednesday's 4-stag finats. Backed by Thuriderbird Power Feeds, Lakpue Drug and Casino Flipmo, the three-day derby is hosted by Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu. Mendoza's Golden Warrior 70 X 7 Times entry beat the stags fielded. in by Blandy Tolentino, Joey and Suboy de los Santos and Boy Gamilia. Also with 3-0 states were VCG San Clemente, Barangay Petsayan, San Fer, W&J, Labanan Sa Pasay Oct. 15, RB Spartan's Blood, Gold Cup Argga, and San Pablo DISTRICT SHOWING CO.

VIJAY Singh tees off in hole No. 11.

NORTON, Massachusetts—World No. 2 Vijay Singh shot 63 to take the second-round lead in the Deutsche Bank Championship on Saturday and move into position to take Tiger Woods' No. 1 ranking, too.

With an eagle on the first hole sparking the best round of the tournament, Singh took the lead from trop-ranked Woods with back-to-back-hindles on Nos. 12-13 to move to 11 under.

"It's not going to affect me one way or another if I overtake him," said Singh, who has already won five times this year, including the PGA Cham-

pionship. "Yeah, if I win this tournament, I'll be winning tournaments," Woods said. No. 1. Fine. But what would that change for me? I'm going to go out there next week and do it all over again."

Billy Hass and John Rollins were tied with Woods at 9 under, two strokes back, with Ryan Palmer and Shigeld Maruyama at 8 under on the par-71, 7,415-yard (6,747-meter) TPC of Boston

Woods has held the No. 1 ranking for a record 264 consecutive weeks, Singh would take it over if he finishes higher than Woods or if Woods finishes lower than a tie for seventh.

"The No. 1 ranking takes care of itself just by

That's something Woods hasn't been able to do this year. His only win this year was at the Match Play Championships. His last victory in stroke play was more than a year ago at the Western Open.

But he's not ready to give up the No. 1 ranking just yet. Despite his so-called slump, Woods has finished in the top 10 in seven of his last nine tournaments; five of those were in the top five.

Woods shot 65 Friday to share the firstround lead with Palmer, On Saturday, Woods plodded along at even with 10 pars on the first 12 holes before he sank a mne-foot birdle putt

Bustamante, Diaz outkick Davao rivals

DAVAO CITY—Rodel Bustamante of Tagum City seized the lead early and didn't let up even as local bet Estella Mamac-Diaz was pushed to the limit in topping yesterday's eliminations for the 28th National Milo Marathon at the PTA grounds here.

In the absence of Davao's more seasoned runners, Bustamante took charge to rule the men's division of the 21-km event. Fifth placer here last year, Bustamante clocked one hour, 10 minutes and 59 seconds.

"Malayo pa kinuha ko na yung lead. Pero kailangan pa ng maraming ensayo para sa finals (I took the lead early. But I need to train more for the finals)," said the 25-year-old Bustamante, who went home with the P10,000 cash purse, a trophy, a Globe Handyphone and a ticker to the National Finals on Nov. 14 in Metro Manila.

The top three finishers here last year did not run yesterday, paving the way for the younger road warriors to rule the race held in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Globe Handyphone, Bayview Park Hotel, adidas and the Department of Tourism.

Joining Bustamante in the 42-K national finals were Reynante Villarama, who placed second (1:12:32) and Rau, Lamprea, who finished third (1:13.53)

There was more drama in the women's race with Diaz, a three-time leg winner, grabbing the lead from Jho-an Banayag only with five kilometers left before winning in

Banayag, a former leg winner, followed Diaz home 47 seconds later while Cherrylyn Javellana, 18, came home third in 1:38:29.

The 33-year-old Diaz was last year's National finals runner-up.

Seven thousand two hundred seventythree runners took part in yesterday's Region IX elimination leg, according to Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong.

Topping the 5K fun run were Roy Ocon. (14:36) and Judelyn Miranda (18:13).

MayniLA bet bags

2nd gold in HK tilt

HONG KONG-Ryan Paolo Arabejo of Team Maynil A-RP continued to make waves in the 2004 Hong Kong Swimming Champsonships by winning his second gold medal yesterday at the Shing Mun Valley Swimming Center here

The 14-year-old Arabejo led from halfway in the race to rule the 400-meter freestyle event of the meet featuring the best 16-under swimmers

Arabejo's win cushioned the impact of a minor RP defeat as 14-year-old Mathew Tano settled for the silver in a close 200 butterfly final to 16-year-

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the Manila Sports

Council (Masco) and the delegation head, praised

Arabejo and Tano for their efforts saying: "Both swimmers' will to win and determination to give

from Hong Kong and South China.

old David Wong Kai-wai of Hong Kong.

Gorres proves too classy

MANDAUE CITY-Z "The Dream" winner via scares of 100-92, 99-91, Gorres made a tough task look routine as he easily decisioned Sairung Suwanasil of Thailand over 10 rounds here Saturday evening.

The 22-year-old Gorres, who was earlier assured by manager Rudy Salud of a stint in Freddie Roach's Hollywood gym should he hurdle his World Boxing Organization No. 8 rival, used his ring savvy and a vast arsenal of shots to frustrate the charable Than

All three judges had Gorres the Contributor

99-91.

"He lacks the killer instinct. He could have stopped the That if he showed more aggressiveness," said boxing patron Antonio L. Aldeguer, who handles Gorres with Salud. Salud was at ringside Saturday.

Gorres, who will be joining universal featherweight king Manny Pacquao on his US trip, improved his win-loss-draw record to 18-1-1. with 10 KOs.

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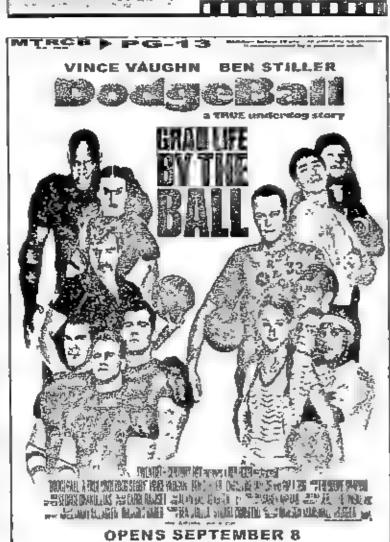
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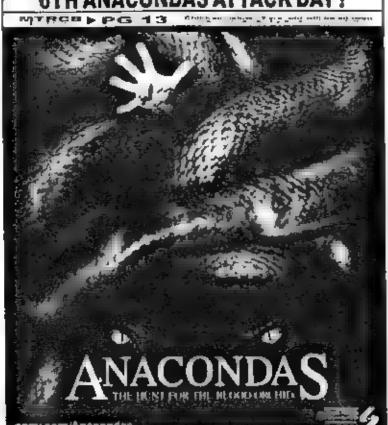
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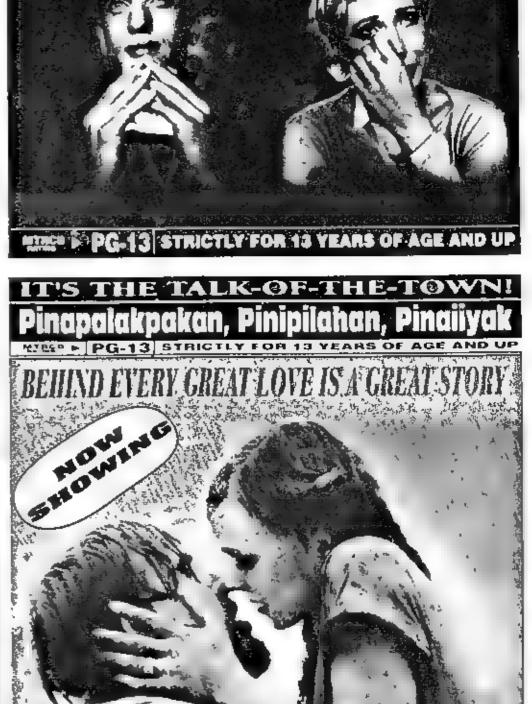




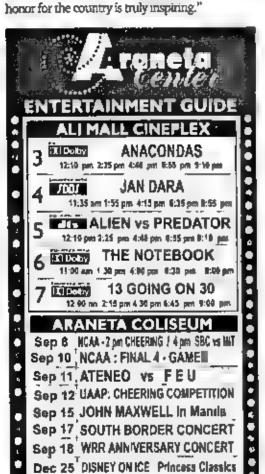


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Mary boots out Maria

Tragedy puts US Open defeat in perspective

YORK—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova wasn't overly upset after she lost to Mary Pierce, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, in the US Open's third round on Saturday.

Sharapova's silver dress carried a plain black ribbon in memory of the more than 340 people, nearly half children, killed in a hostagetaking at a school in her native Russia.

"I lost today, but I still have to move on. It's not the end of the world," said Sharapova, who double-faulted 14 times and dropped the final five games. There are a lot more important things in the world going on right now."

Given her almost perfect English, her allgrown-up strokes, and her poise on and off the court, it's easy to forget that Sharapova is just 17 and was born in Siberia. If she hadn't flashed the tenns ability that

prompted a move to Florida a decade ago,

Sharapova might very well be just another teen readjusting to high school life this week, half a "The first of September is when so many kids go to school, the first day back. They go in with flowers and the whole family," she said. "Unfortunately, the terrorists decided to do

something bad with those families and kids. It

just shows that my loss is a little thing." As far as terms goes, though, her exit was Oliver Rochus of Belgium, at 1.65 meters (5-



SHARAPOVA: My loss is just a little thing.

the day's most significant development, more surprising than No. 3 Carlos Moya's 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5 collapse agamst 100th-ranked

foot-5) the shortest ATP Tour regular.

The other top players advanced in straight sets, including Justine Henin-Hardenne, Lindsay Davenport, Roger Federer and Andre Agas-

Henin-Hardenne beat Lisa Raymond, 6-4, 6-3. Davenport got past No. 26 Elena Bovina, 7-6 (7), 6-2, and Federer's 6-0, 6-4, 7-6 (7) victory over No. 31 Fabrice Santoro put him in the round of 16 for the fourth straight year.

But Federer's never been past the Open's fourth round. If he does reach the quarterfinals, his opponent could be Agassi, an eighttune major champion.

Agassi's next opponent will be Sargis Sargsian, who erased a two-set deficit and saved two match points to beat Paul-Henri Mathieu of France, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (4), in 4 hours, 41 nunutes. Add in his secondround upset of No. 10 Nicolas Massu-at 5:09, the second-longest match in tournament history-and Sargsian broke the record for longest consecutive Open marches.

Often mistaken by security guards for a ball boy or a junior player, Rochus entered the tournament with a 76-101 career mark and a 0-4 Open record. That last fact prompted Moya to ask incredulously, "He never won?"

"That's why you don't underestimate anybody," said Agassi, a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 winner over No. 25 Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic. AP

Ouzo-Dilema partnership rules Flash

By Edwin Villanueva Contributor

IMPORTED galloper Ouzo simply loves it when she's setting the pace.

The 6-year-old mare from Australia also got a big lift from the masterful handling of champion jockey Pat Dilema, who guided her to victory in the Flash Mile race yesterday in front of a roaning crowd at the Santa Ana Park.

Blasting out of the gates first, Ouzo dictated the tempo at will and gamely stayed tough down the stretch to outduel slight favorite Dandansoy

m the 1,600-meter contest.

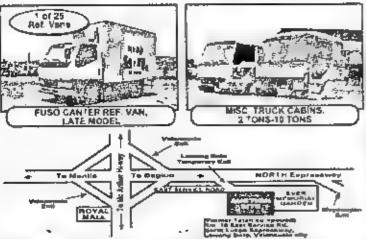
Dandansoy looked all set to gobble up Ouzo at midstretch but Dilema applied the whip in rapidfire succession—a move rarely seen from the 3time PSA Jockey of the Year-on the bay galloper who responded mightily to pull off the win worth P170,000 for the Hermie Esguerra Stable.

Basta naka-ayre mahihuwpan sila kay Ouzo. Kailangang gamitan ng latigo para lang makasiguro (When she sets the pace to her own illung she'll be hard to beat. I just applied the whip to ensure the win)," said Dilema, the winningest rider for August with 21 first-place finishes.

FOLDER Presidential Post Crib custubion Like Wind came in third, six lengths off the winner, while comebacking Lyonnais arrived fourth in what turned out to be a two-horse affair.

The Justino "Nick" Atienza-trained Ouzo, sired by Australian stallion St. Covet out of New Zealand broodmare Aruseed, covered the route in a fast 1:40.8, submitting dizzying fractions of 24.5-25.5-23.5-27.

Ouzo's victory, her 10th in 20 outings so far, enabled the Esguerra Stable to bounce back after Adam's Call, also handled by Dilema, lost to Diktador in the Blaze Mile earlier.



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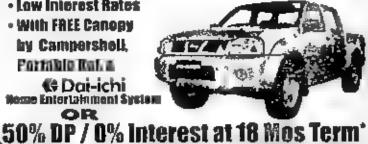
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Editor Louie C. Camino

SM'S R-18 ban will ki says Laurice

By Marinel R. Cruz

AWARD-WINNING actress-director Launce Guilien said the ban on R-18 movies in SM theaters will lead not to the death of the local movie industry but of pornography in the

"I don't believe the film industry is dying," said Guillen, "For me, now is a good time as any. (This ban will lead) not to the death of the film industry but to the death of pornography. I think it's only a matter of zoning, (because) people would always want to make movies for adults

"Maybe (malls) can do zoning within their complex so that children are not allowed in certain areas," the director added, over lunch with members of the entertainment press. "Or maybe do away with posters and pictures used to promote R-18 films."

SM theaters last week announced they would stop showing movies classified as R-18. Sexy actors and actresses and their producers protested the SM decision, but the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) supported it.

Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. also protested the SM ban, saying it could kill the movie industry

Guillen said the SM directive is a "private policy."

She also pointed out that SM's clientele are families. "So you just have to zone," she stressed "There should be certain theaters just for adults. It's being done in the US, I think it is about time it's done here."

Lauded by MTRCB

A memorandum from MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia to West Avenue Theaters Corp. vice president for operations Ric Camangan said "the board greatly appreciates and lauds your company's intention. Indeed such intention would promote the making of wholesome movies."

SM cinemas are listed under West Avenue Theaters Corp.

"We would also like to ventilate the observations of some sectors that not all R-18 movies are about sleazy sex or violence," Laguardia added "There are R-18 movies that impart values and do not deal with sleazy sex alone such as 'The Bridges of Madison County' and 'Ang Huling Birhen sa Lupa."

Guilien said the MTRCB classified her critically accidimed film "American Adobo" R-18

"We lost a lot of audience there," she recalled. "It was a comedy. There was nothing obscene in it. But because of that rating, I became aware of my responsibility to my audience. Before, I only wanted to entertain my audience. Now I try to be clear with the values. I .mpart through my films."

Autonomy

Guillen said she refuses to make a movie if she does not believe in its content. She is directing "Santa-Santita" for United Films, and also plans to film E Stonil Jose's short story "Рирру Love."

She said she "invested" her talent fee for

STOP SLEAZE! The movie industry won't die but sleazy movies just might if SM insists on not screening adult movies, says Guillen whose latest work, "Santa-Santita" starring Angelica Panganiban (below), is sure to have a slot in the chain's cineplexes.



'Maybe (malls) can do zoning so that children are not allowed in certain areas, or maybe do away with posters and pictures promoting R-18 films'

looking a bit heavy, were at Starbucks at the Shangri-la Plaza in Mandaluyong City Saturday afternoon. Glydel recently gave birth to their first baby,

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plained, "But Tony Gloria (of Unitel Films) is giving me complete autonomy.

Guillen said Unitel decided not to join the Metro Manila Film Festival in December because Gloria wanted to show his movie in the Philippines and in the US simultaneously in November, United produced "Crying Ladies," which won the MMFF best picture award last

Where the money is

"If we join the festival, which is December to January, the weather would be too cold in the States and no one would want to watch it," she explained

She said "Santa-Santita" is one of the 23 films invited to participate in the Busan International Film Festival in Korea in October. "But not in competition," she added. "They have a forum that would showcase select films, and prospective producers who want to put in money for the production of films can

The director explained that, for some time now, she has been more interested in market-

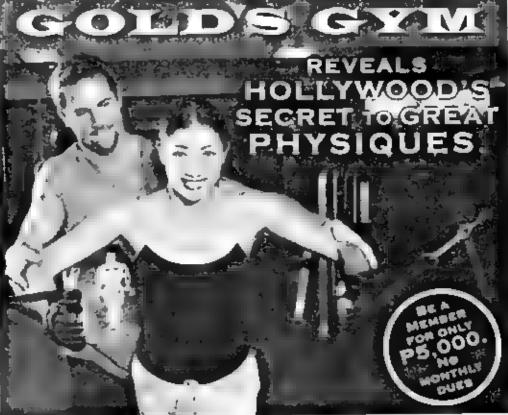
"Santa-Santita" in the film, "This means that I'm interested in is how local films can be marit is also in my interest to make sure that the keted abroad, and what to do in order to be atfilm does not go beyond the budget," she ex- tractive to the (international) market," she said. "I feel that's where the money is."

She recalled her trip to France last year to attend the Cannes film fest. She said she was amazed to see the vast selection of films in the market. Only Vietnam and the Philippines did not have their booths, she added.

Umtel had a booth, but it was listed as an American company under Unitel International, she said. "At least there's 'Crying Ladies' and 'Imelda," she added.

"Imelda," the documentary on the life of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, won for director Ramona Diaz the best cinematography prize at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival

"It was like a flea market of movies," said Guillen, "What's sad is that we're all interested in competing. That's not where



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JIH GUJAO PURIZALAN Out of the Closet: JAYA COMES HOME / A36

SHOW(ER) TIME, Jaya demonstrates

it should be used, in her bathtub.

the application of a facial wash right where



WEATIN PHIL. PLAZA 52/990 to WELSON GREENIBLES (the JOHNSON FROM STREET A 1997) / TOST/ SM PG CALLA 12/990 to WELSON GREENIBLES (the JOHNSON / TOST/ SM PG CALLA 1 | R. N. S. SM CALLA 1 | R. N. S. SM PARKET (TOST) SM Darse (DE2) //SG SM CEN TR. A. Callar (S. M. S. SM PARKET FA SM PARKET (TOST BROOKER) SM PARKET (TOST BROOKER)

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Alicia Silverstone plays matchmaker

RIGHT after we viewed "The Swan" on Studio 23, we were preasantly surprised to see that its post-programming was another new show, "Miss Match," starring Alicia Silverstone.

We stayed on Studio 23 to watch the new sitcom because we wanted to see if Silverstone, who was such a big hit on the movie "Clueless," still had it in her to set the small screen aglow.

This was a matter of some importance to us because we liked "Clueless" a lot, and thought that Silverstone's work in it was witty and winning. That's why, in the succeeding years, when her follow-up projects flopped one after the other, we were sorely disappointed and frustrated.

sitcom, Silverstone could recover lost ground and become popular again, albert on the small

Well, after viewing the first episode of "Miss Match," we can say that Silverstone isn't a hasbeen, not by a long shot. In the sitcom, she plays a divorce lawyer who stumbles on a side "career" as a matchmaker.

the state with a the military of the more states of a promote the

Yes, we know that there's httle that's new about this format, which has been tackled in previous productions like "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Hello Dolly." But its being given another trot around the park by Silverstone and company isn't exactly a disagreeable proposition.

Silverstone looks more mature now, but that's not necessarily a bad thing, because she plays a lawyer here, not a high school

Also, she's able to proficiently -We hoped that, with her new manage both her more serious scenes as a lawyer and her ditzy sequences as a modern-day matchmaker.

The contrast between her two



personas gives the show the variety it needs to sustain viewers' interest and tickle their fancy.

It also helps that, although Silverstone's character is a past master at making other people fall in love with each other, she has problems with her own love

This makes her a vulnerable leading lady rather than a slick, pluperfect one, so viewers' empathy is heightened.

The show's title character is given another thematic issue to contend with: Her father is a top lawyer whose actuevements make her insecure, thus adding to her vulnerability, and consequently to

her accessibility to viewers.

True, the show comes off more as a proficient production than a zanily inspired one. But it's still a pleasure to see Silverstone again getting the attention and showcase she deserves.

Here's hoping that her new show won't be a mismatch for herf

'Dodgeball'

BEN STILLER plays it rough in the new comedy, "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story." In the film, a small gym managed by Peter Lafleur (Vince Vaughn) is threatened with extinction by a gleaming sports and fitness place owned by White Goodman (Stiller), unless Lafleur's group of social rejects can emerge as winners in a big dodgeball competition. Other stars include James Duff and Missi Pyle.

Holmes as First Daughter IN THE ROMANTIC comedy film "First Daughter," Katie Holmes plays Samantha McKenzie, the daughter of the President of the United States. A cluster of her own bodyguards and a lot of do's and don'ts sum up Sam's world ever since she can remember. But, now that she's about to enter college, she wants to be free-no bodyguards, no rules, no press. But will she ever fit in a world where people know who she really is? Sam's parents are played by Michael Keaton and Margaret

'How Did You Know'

GARY V has scored another hit with "How Did You Know," which has become a favorite of radio listeners and music lovers. Star Records' AVCD of the song features the single, a minus-one and a music video. It has already been certified gold. The video is available on VHS, VCD and DVD formats.

'All My Life'

AGA MUHLACH and Kristine Hermosa's romantic starrer, "All My Life," is now on video.

Get a DVD copy and a special elephant shaped disc with special features like Behind the Scenes, The Making, Music Video and Full Trailer.

Co-stars are Bernard Palanca, Ces Quesada, Dimples Romana and Ricky Davao. Call 4152272, local 3436.

Star of the Month

JERICHO Rosales is Cinema One's Star of the Month His films are being shown on Romance Central every Sunday at 6 p.m.: Sept. 12, "Trip"; Sept. 19, "Forevermore," and Sept 26, "Noon at Ngayon."

On Drama Studio, his movies are: Sept. 27, "Tanging Yaman"; Sept. 28, "Bagong Buwan"; Sept. 29, "Wansapanataym," and Sept. 30, "Magandang Hatinggabi."

Jaya comes home

Tank tops, "I wear these blouses on 'SOP' They look like they're for sleeping (laughs) When I buy stuff like these, I'm very conscious of the cut and design. First, they must not be too tight. I don't mind showing cleavage, but when the other parts are shown, hindi ko na

"When I brought thus halter top to 'SOP' it was Regine who wore it. We borrow each other's clothes a lot. We have the same shoe size and clothes size. The halter top is from Japan. It's pretty expensive. I have a bag to match it.

"I like this black blouse because it's fully beaded. I got this at Macy's in the US. I can wear it both for work and for gimmicks.

"If you want sporty, I have this (a black sports shirt with '68' printed on it). This is from Bebe."

Dresses. "This dress is really, really cheap, but I like it. It's worth P200, It's a little bit daring, backless and with a halter design Tim a denim freak. This denim dress is re-

ally nice, it's warm and I wear it in the US. "I find this striped sun dress very cute. I've worn this on 'SOP' and I'll wear it again. Regine and I are like that. We buy clothes and wear them as much as we can, so it's worth

"The plastic packaging of this dress says you'll lose 10 pounds when you wear it, I wore it on 'SOP' once. Naloka ako! The fats disappeared (laughs)! Only, the dress is kind

of heavy. "Cocoy Lizaro made this yellow-orange dress. I've worn this on 'SOP' once. It has several layers, the first one down to the ankle. But it's really a dress with a micro-mini

skart." T-shirts. "A friend from Germany gave this to me because he knew that my grandfather is from Jamaica. I like it because the colors remind me of Jama.ca.

"This Kitty shurt is from Bahrain, I went there to do a show with Ogie Alcasid. We went shopping and when I saw this I screamed, 'Aay! Miming!'

"This shirt is from Nordstrom in New York. Hike the monkey design (laughs).

"I like this Oakland shirt because it reminds me of the time I lived in Oakland I was also a fan of football before, but I stopped watching because people said I was becoming boyish."

Sleepwear. "I bought three pairs of shorts from Victoria's Secret. They have the same style but different colors. When the weather's cold, I wear my sarong pants or nightgowns from Boracay.

"When I buy sleepwear, I wash them a couple of times before wearing them, so that the fabric

becomes thin." Cosmetics, "I do everything in the bathroom-foot spa, etc. Most of the stuff here in the bathroom is for my hair. I have a bubble bath at least once a month. I use a really mild facial wash to re-

move my makeup." Bags. "This black Prada is very, very special. My manager,



DENIM FREAK likes this "maong" dress coat for warmth.

Wyngard Tracy, gave it to me. He bought it in Italy. I hardly use this because I'm being care-

"Regine also gave me a Prada but I can't seem to find it right now."

Accessories. "This arm bracelet is from Ayen Munji. She gave this to me when she was still a princess in Brunei. I did a show with her. All of those who were part of the production received gifts from her. I also like wearing ethnic bracelets on my shows."

Shoes, "Some of my shoes I have given away. When I buy sandals, I make sure I pick something with style so I can use it over and over. For example, this pair of open-toed stilettos, which I

bought in New York, can be worn during or dinary gimmicks and in formal shows. It's Anne Klein, and is not very comfortable to wear. Ninety percent of my shoes are for work.

This Puma pair is what I normally wear when I have shows abroad and I have to do a lot of walking. It's kind of stylish, too, because it has beight."



SHELF LIFE. She gives away some of her shoes but still has enough to fill her shelves.



BLACK AND BEADED, from Macy's for work and for gimmicks



CHEAP SKIRT but a favorite, bought for P200



SHOWER POWER. She really does sing, and dance, in the shower.

Jackie Lou stars in 555's new earthshaking commercial

TAP NOTCH. Jackle Lou inspiring people to get fit

FITNESS poster girl Jackie Lou Blanco ing earphones, continues to eat and tap is in the newest SSS Carne Norte televi-

sion commercial (TVC).

Like the previous 555 Carne Norte TVCs, the new commercial shows the physical power that comes from a protem-rich diet like 555 Carne Norte. It - mercial is a welcome break opens with Jackie Lou listening to her favorite workout music while eating 555 Came Norte As the music and her appetite intensifies, Jackie Lou taps her foot to the beat.

The foot-tapping triggers a powerful vibration that causes the floor to crack and the walls of neighboring houses to collapse.

The unsuspecting Jackie Lou, wear-

her foot at the same time, oblivious to the tremor that she is causing.

The TVC ends with the 555 tagline:

'Yan ang sarap na may lakas protina! Jackie Lou says the comfrom the various things that keep her busy, including host- STOPPER ing a segment of "Unang Hint," where she gives tips on quick workouts for women, and writing health and firmess columns for different publications like a daily newspaper and several fitness and sports maga-

Jackie Lou was chosen to be the new

555 Came None TVC model precisely because, as a fitness icon, she personifies health and fitness. The celebrity mom also embodies practicality and fun, which is what the brand is all

SHOW

"You'll find SSS tuna, sardines or came norte aimost all the time on the Pinoy dining

about, according to its mak-

table," says 555 Carne Norte product manager Owen Cruz, "We beheve this is because the brand captures our unsquely Pinoy taste and mirrors our happy nature and zest for life, at a price that delivers the best value for

"Family comes first," says Jackie Lou, mother of three and wife to actor Ricky Davao. "I make sure I spend enough quality time with them. My TV segment is now once a week. I write when I'm at home. I do my workouts when my kids are in school 1 know how to balance my time.

"People come up to me and say that i encourage them to go back to the

gym," she says. "It's part of my advocacy. I'm happy i can inspire people to get fit, I'm glad I can communicate this message through my activities, including my role in the newest 555 Came Norte 1VC "

regregations, the state was the same

GMA lauds The Filipino Channel coverage of hostage drama

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo commended ABS-CBN for the network's coverage of the Angelo de la Cruz hostage drama, which played a significant role in the government's negotiation with Iraqı officials for the release of the contract

was the guest of honor, she complimented the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), shown on The Filipino Channel (TFC), for its extensive news coverage of the hostage situation.

"Incidentally," the President said during the conference, In the recent conference of the "may I take this opportunity to

hostage situation), when De la freed our countryman." Cruz was kidnapped. The Filipino Channel was watched by the captors, SHOW and ABS-CBN, recognizing this, changed its pro- STOPPER

the state of the s

gramming and included messages from the Philippines in their programs. then decided to free De la Cruz, Manila Overseas Press Club acknowledge ABS-CBN in the That helped a great deal in the

(MOPC) where the President worldwide beaming (of the negotiations that eventually date reports from the start of wife and family on the TV screen

repeated airing, through TFC, of the Philippine government's decision to pull out the Filipino troops from Iraq was viewed

by the captors, who ABS-CBN provided up-to-

"Kandila at Panalangin," for his homecoming after the terrorists held him captive for al- geles, Pampanga.

most two weeks. where De la Cruz finally saw his nia.

the hostage crisis when the and spoke with them as ANC network launched the vigil transmitted the images of his family and their voices from a hotel room in Clark Field in An-

Also aired by TFC from Am-The highlight of the coverage man, Jordan was the tearful rehappened in a room at the union of De la Cruz with his fa-Philippine Embassy in Baghdad, ther, children and wife, Arse-

Angela Bofill in Greenbelt celebration

POP and jazz diva Angela Bofili will perform in the second anniversary celebration of Merk's Bar Bistro on Sept. 27 and 28.

"Our original idea was really for Angela to open Merk's Bar Bistro two years ago but she was not available," said singer and bar owner Richard Merk, who met Bofill two years ago during a bar gig in Cleveland.

Known for her jazzed-up interpretations of love and despair, Boffil has been a celebrated recording artist since her recording debut in 1978 with the album "Angle," which produced the hits "This Time I'll Be Sweeter" and "Under the Moon and Over the Sky."

Another album, "Angel of the Night," spawned hits like "What I Wouldn't Do (For the Love of You)," "Too Tough," "Tought I Give In," "Let Me Be the One" and "Te.I Me Tomorrow."

Born and raised in New York City, Bofill has been singing since Medical Supplies and Equipment, she was 4 years old and was ex- and Charm Med (We Care We posed to a variety of musical Provide). styles from Acetha Franklin to Tio member of New York's All City



80FILL, at Merk's Bar Bistro

Chorus, she majored in theater at the Hart School of Music and trained in opera at the Manhattan School of Music.

Musical director for Bofill's performance at Merk's Bar Bistro is Lorrie flustre, who is also the musical director of the concerts of Patti Austin and Martin Niev-

Angela Bofill's rare engagement in Manila is presented by Trademark Concepts Inc., Premier Wines and Spirits, BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc., OLT Ventures, Pharmaceutical Products,

Fr inquiries, call 757-4720, Puente and Celia Cruz. A former 757-4721, (0917)850-4017 or (0917)705-2250.

Lamangan, Lee present 'stage event of the year'

THE ULTIMATE symbol of manhood becomes the subject of a stage event as two award-winning staiwarts of the entertainment industry, director Joel Lamangan and writer Rocky Lee, present what they plan to be "the stage event of the year."

After nine years of being away from theater, filmmaker Lamangan returns with a piece that is bound to arouse controversy. "Penis Talks' is a perfect comeback for me," he says. "We want it to be the stage event of the year.

"It took me so long to do theater again because I needed a material that would excite me, that would inspire me," Lamangan adds. "Ricky Lee felt the same way." Ricky and I are confident that 'Penis Talks' is

The show, from producers Manny Valera of DMV Entertainment Inc. and Arnold Vegafria of ALV Productions, is live entertainment that the producers predict will be the talk of the town with characters that amuse, shock, jolt and titillate. It features dramatic segments interspersed with musical numbers.

After all, the producers say, the women had their "Vagina Monologues" and now it is the turn of the men to grab the spotlight.

The cast, however, is not all-male as it includes Christian Vasquez, Luis Alandy, Paolo Paraiso, Carlo Maceda, Jeffrey Hidaigo, Douglas Robinson, William Thio, Russel Si-

mon, Jason Cohs and Recci Chan as well as Angelu de Leon and Jenine Desiderio.

TIME

"Penis Talks" is slated to be shown on Oct. 2, 3, 15 and 16 at the Music Museum in Greenhills, San

The show's creative team includes Jesse Lassten, original score and musical direction, Monino Duque, lighting director; Mio Infante, scenographer; Ed Murillo, stage manager; Roobak Valle, assistant director, Robert Rodolfo, choreographer; and Beth delos Reyes-Rivera, executive producer.

Tickets are P2,000 (limited seats only), P1,500 and P1,000. For ticket inquiries, call Music Museum, 721-0635 or 721-6726, or DMV Entertainment, 415-0373 or 374-1361



NOT ALL MEN. Lamangan (in white, right) and Lee (left) with some members of the cast, which also includes actresses



JAY-R. Tense

Can Jay-R fill up Folk Arts Theater?

JAY-R, the "prince of R&B," per-forms in "Gameface Reload!" on Sandara Park and comedy con-Sept. 25 at the Folk Arts Theater. cert queen Ai Ai de las Alas join available at all National Book-

to a big hit, Jay-R captivated hs- Pront acts are Prenty Triszha and Tower Records (Makati and Alteners again with his second single, "Kung Mahal Mo Siya" from Universal Records.

"I'm so tense," Jay-R confesses. "I've never been this nervous. Will I be able to fill up the Folk Arts? It's so huge!"

R&B princess Kyla, together

After turning "Bakit Pa Ba?" in- Jay-R in "Gameface Reload." Anton Diva.

> Musical director is Mon Faustino, Floy Quintos wrote the sript. Louie Ignacio is stage director. Raquel Okada produces for Siegquel Production. Jobert Sucaldito produces "Gameface Reload!"

. Tickets for P1,200, P1,000, P750, P500, P300 and P100 are store outlets, Music Museum, abang), Robinson's Department Stores (including Cavite and Pampanga), Ticketworld (891-9999) and Folk Arts Theater Box Office.

Four 7610 cellular phones will be given away during the show.



with Juliana Palermo

Mga sikretong nakakakiliti lalabas na!

Pagkatapos ng Big News T - Th 10:00 pm



Love for Reel or Real? Naiibang dating game!



M-W-F 10:00 pm



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Mon-Fri 5:30 pm

IBANG LEVEL NAI



Tuesday 8:00 pm



Saturday 9:00 pm

ENTERTAINMENT

AYA comes home



By Marinel R. Cruz Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

AS THE DAUGHTER of a struggling Filipino singer-comedienne in the United States, Jaya Ramsey grew up moving from one home to

"We lived in LA, San Francisco, Daly City, Missouri, San Leandro, San Pedro, Carson," says the daughter of Elizabeth Ramsey. "Name it, we've lived there. I also tell my friends my mom and I used to live from one garage to another."

US in 1985, when Jaya was just 15. It told my mom let's jut stay abroad because it seemed like there was no future

for us in the Philippines. "Transferring was really tough. 1 told myself, one of these days I'm going to have to do something. My mother was not getting any younger, you see."

Jaya joined a band, and from her earnings, plus her mom's pension, they were able to make both ends meet. "We rented a garage converted into a bedroom. It was big enough for us and we were satisfied. That was friends come over who slept there, too."

In 1988, Jaya ran away from home. She got Challenge" and "SOP" together with the group of singersongwriter Stevie B and, when she was 19, she released her first

"I decided to go back to my mom in '92," says the prodigal daughter. "I didn't want to sing anymore. There was trouble with my lawyer, talent manager and agency In 1993, I decided to quit singing all together because I figured that there was something other than singing for me. I did some office work."

Jaya met musician Andrew

Buffington in 1995. "He's an excellent musician. My more and I really admired him." Jaya and Andrew would marry in 1998.

In January 1996, Jaya came to the Philippines and joined the Metro Pop Music Festival, interpreting Danny Tan's prize-winning entry, "Sometimes You Just Know." Singer Pilita Corrales acted as her career man-

"But I wasn't really serious about my singing," Jaya admits. "It was all CLOSET work for me, I kept putting work

aside because I was focusing on my marriage and my relationship with my sister, Jaya and Elizabeth left the country for the Susan. I was trying to get to know myself but couldn't because there were a lot of problems surfacing."

> Two years after marrying, she filed for divorce, reconciled with her sister and bought a new house. "I started fresh," she says. "I felt re-juvenated. I felt like I'm finally doing something for myself, not dependent on anyone anymore.

For a long time I had no sense of home," she adds. "So I bought a home. This is mine now. I will protect it the way it protects me."

The two-story house in Quezon City has three bedrooms. It is locatwhere cooked, where we slept. We had ed near the GMA 7 studios, where Jaya works as host of "K! The One-Million Peso Videoke

> for a place where I can build two houses, for her and for me. Just so I can watch over her." Jaya and Elizabeth are busy preparing for their first major

"I don't live with my mom,"

she says. "But I'm also looking

concert together, "Best of Both," on Sept. 17 and 18 at the Music Museum. Musical director is Gerard Salonga. "It's our first time to do a show

together at a venue this big," says Jaya. "We did a show at the Casino Filipino last year. It was

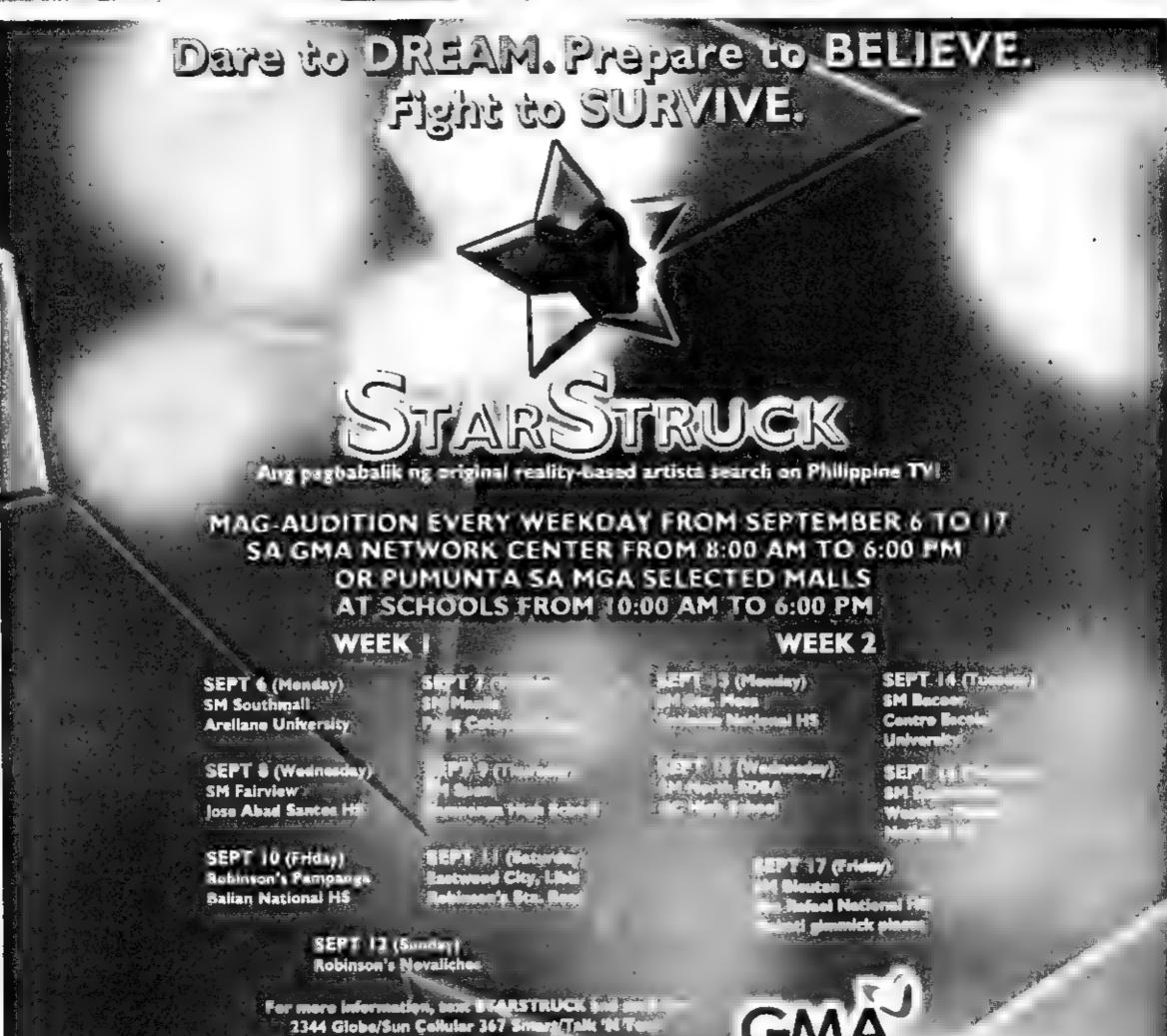


"THIS IS MINE," says the singer of her home. "I will protect it the way it protects me."

actually a good one. There were positive sing songs she sang in the '70s, while Jaya will write-uns about it. My manager said mom and I should definitely do a major concert."

sing songs that "best describe where I am now in my life and what my mother means to me." For the Music Museum show, Elizabeth will AYA/A34



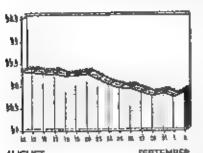


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per aunce Hong Kong, Sept. 3, 2001

"The market's raily is not over-THE STOCK market may surrender some of last weak's hefty gains, but done After its breakout there will most analysis expect trading to re- be a pullback," said Joey Roxas, main upbeat this week.

By Doris C. Dumlao

Applicate to programme and the first of the second programme and the second programme and the second second

THE ARROYO administration plans to brave the international capital market anew with a bond offering of at least \$750 million despite its recent admission that it was amid of a fiscal crisis.

ernment has mandated three investment banks--Credit Suisse First Boston, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan Chase—to underwrite the new debt offering.

The sources said the fresh offering could be raised to as much as \$1 billion depending on the market's appetite for the sovereign bonds.

It will be the first time for the government to test the global bond market again since President Macapaga.-Arroyo declared a fiscal crisis two weeks ago.

But her economic managers

he best Altis just got better

Banking sources said the gov- have explained that based on the technical definition of a "fiscal crisis," the Philippines was not yet in such a situation since it was still able to service debts and to access the global bond markets.

A government source said proceeds from the new offering would be used to help the state-owned utility National Power Corp. with its refinancing requirements.

Over the last few years, the debtstrapped Napocor has not been able to raise funds on its own as investors sought hefty premiums. The utility's total debt is expected to hit \$5.23 billion by year's end even without this new offering.

The source said the governmend's new offering would be done through the reopening of outstanding issuances, similar to the past three bond floats this year.

A reopening of existing bond floats in lieu of a fresh launch is a speedy way of raising funds and is seen as an easier way to gauge market demand.

Another banking source said talks about the government's new bond offering dragged down the prices of Philippine global debt papers on Friday.

Declining bond prices mean that yields are rising, or that it becomes more expensive for the issuer to service the debts.

"The market is now saturated with Philippine debt (paper)," the source said.

However, the source said it was no surprise that the government needed to source more foreign borrowings because it would have to absorb P500 billion worth of Napocor debts.

But the source said the government would still be able to raise funds from the globa, bond market depending on how much premium it would be willing to pay to investors.

Although the government has completed its \$1.8-billion commercial borrowing requirement this year, bankers said it could be working to pre-fund the requirements for next year.

The Philippines' long-term foreign currency debt is rated "BB" by Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings and "Ba2" by Moody's Investor Service. These are speculative and non-investment grade ratings.

Market rally seen to continue



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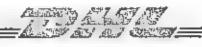
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BUSINESS

Piltel seen to take lion's share of revenue split with Smart

By Clarissa S. Batino

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. is likely to end up with between 65 percent and 85 percent of sales from Talk 'N Text-up from 50 percent-once a new revenue-sharing agreement is forged with Smart Communications Inc., according to Smart president and

Piltel chair Napoleon Nazareno. At the same time, Nazareno said the management fees that Smart and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. have been collecting from Piltel could also go down.

Nazareno said these changes,

ter, would enable Piltel to post substantial profits and utilize billions of pesos in tax credits incurred from years of operating in

"We hired an international telecom consultant to help determine the appropriate revenue-sharing deal," said the Smart president. "Offhand, I believe it could range somewhere between 65 and 85 percent in favor of PilteL*

Currently, Smart gets half of Piltel's revenues from Talk 'N Text for allowing the latter access to ns network. Last year, Piltel's cellular phone revenues reached about P9 billion. In the first half,

expected within the fourth quar- Piltel and Smart split about P5.8 billion in sales

In the first half, Pikel's management fees increased 30 percent to P497 million. These are payments related to oursourcing arrangements with PLDT and Smart.

"Since Piltel had crossed the critical mass of subscribers, we are also reviewing the fees, like management fees charged," said Nazareno. "We could not charge Pittel anymore at the same level we have been charging when it was just building a subscriber base."

As of the first half, Piltel's Talk 'N Text subscribers are pegged at about 3.55 million, up from 2.22 million a year ago and only about 377,000 m 1998

Nazareno said Talk 'N Text was the brand Smart would use to mprove its market share in the "financially challenged" segment of the population.

Piltel is possed to take advantage of the D and E market," said Nazareno, concurrent president of PLDE "As we go further into the lower segment, Talk 'N Text as the brand that will allow us to penetrate the market deeper."

CALAMBA-in the Nort of Calabornia

WHAT THE WATER TO THE

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Even without the improved revenue-sharing deal and reduced management fees, Pi.tel ended the first half with an unexpected net profit of P809 million, a turnaround from net losses of P535 million a year ago and dou-

ble already of the company's

P402 million profit forecast for

the whole of 2004. Piltel is now looking at a net profit of P1 1 to P1,2 billion thu year, according to Manuel Pangihnan, chair of Piltel parent firm PLDT

Analysts said that given Piltel's strong potential, its share price could reach between P2 50 and P3 this year, especially once a favorable revenue-sharing agreement was reached.

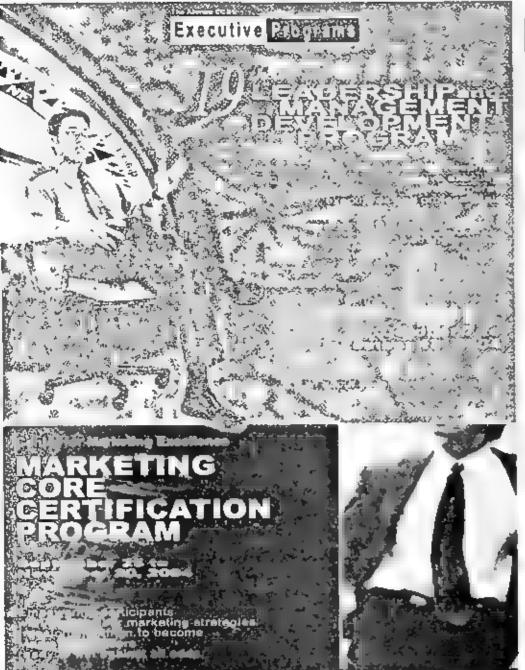
This year, Piltel's share price had surged by more than 115 percent. But Smart bought a 47 percent stake in Piltel from PLDT for only 20 59 centavos per share. Piltel shares closed at P2.75 each on Fra-

day from P2.60 the previous day. "I think the market has factored in the impact once all these equity and revenue sharing deals are completed," said Nazareno. "Piltel will be closely aligned with Smart

once Smart has completed the purchase of the 92 percent."

Panguinan said that a new revenue deal between Smart and Piltel would be approved by their respective boards of directors not later than the first week of





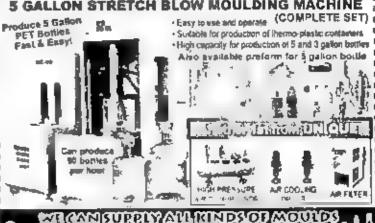




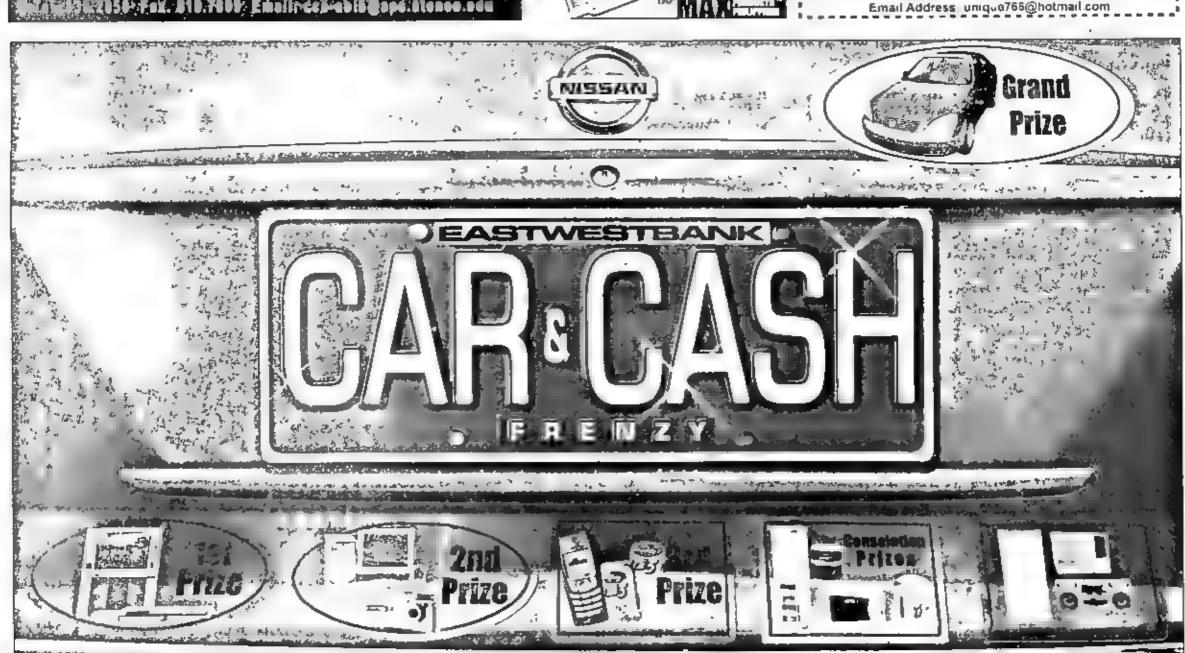


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Price breakdown

THE FILIPINO and American partners of PriceSmart warehouse chain have finally decided to part ways, given their long-festering management differences.

According to the grapevine, the PriceSmart board has agreed that each side has no choice but to either buy out or be bought out by the other. Each side has been given one week to nominate their own appraiser to conduct their respective valuation of the company.

The decision was reached amid a tumultuous meeting Thursday where the Filipino group, led by vice chair William Go and Danilo Olondriz of the Metrobank Group, objected to the proposal of the San Diego, Californiabased chain to convert the \$10.5-million loan extended by International Finance Corp. to the Philippine operations into peso-denominated loan.

Except for the Philippine exposure, the San Diego headquarters earlier agreed to convert the rest of its IFC loans for its worldwide operations into PriceSmart shares on a dollar-fordollar basis.

According to the pro-Filipino grapevine, the local group decided to immediately shoot down the loan conversion proposal after being informed by the US management that it expects the four Philippine stores to lose another P300 million next year, after posung P300 million in losses in the 2003 fiscal year.

The Filipino partners own 48 percent of the venture, with Metrobank's First Metro Investment Corp. accounting for 10 percent. The US partner, the first foreign retailer to enter the country under the Retail Trade Liberation Law, controls 52 percent of the venture.

The Filipino partners have been chafing

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

under the pricing and supply impositions from the San Diego HQ, resulting in the Philippine operations, according to the grapevine, shelling out to the US principal a whopping 88 percent of total sales just for the cost of goods alone.

In addition, the Filipino partners want to replace the American expatriate country manager, Benjamin Woods, with a local, given Woods' \$168,000 a year salary.

The expatriate package also includes a P200,000-month rent for a North Forbes house with a swimming pool, two first class roundtrip tickets to anywhere in the world each year, an Expedition for him and a Honda CR-V for the wife, aside from two full-time drivers and three live-in maxis.

Good guys, bad guys

THE GOOD news about the Guy family/3D feud is that the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce has agreed to mediate but on condition that both sides stop talking to the

The not-so-good news is that Gilbert Guy, the 3D heir who is keeping his wheelchairbound father away from his mother and sisters while the talks are ongoing, has taken the offensive against his banker, Asia United

FirstPac loses interest in SMC stake

the special of the state of the

By Clarissa S. Batino

FIRST Pacific Co. Ltd. is no longer interested in buying San Miguel Corp. and would rather expand its presence in the Philippines through infrastructure projects like the integration of the South Luzon road network, according to its managing director, Manuel Pangilinan.

"That (San Miguel) is off the radar screen. We would rather concentrate on infrastructure projects," said Pangilman, who chairs Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Smart Communications Inc.

It was reported in June that Pangilman revived his interest in acquiring SMC, the country's largest food.

food and beverage company owned 20 percent by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangeo and about 25 percent by the government.

Before acquiring a 24.3-percent stake in PLDT in 1998, First Pacific was originally targeting SMC.

In turn, SMC also expressed interest in buying into First Pacific's PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk as part of the local firm's regional expansion.

Indofood is 51.9-percent owned by First Pacific and is the leading processed food manufacturer in Indonesia. The listed company is engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of moodles, flour, edible oils and fats, food seasonings, baby food and snack

First Pacific, a company that Pangilinan founded in the early '80s using the capital of Indonesia's Salim clan, had been looking to expand in the region through telecom or food.

But its expansion plans in the region shifted to infrastructure after the government invited new investors to consider putting in money into the rehabilitation and integration of the South Luzon road network.

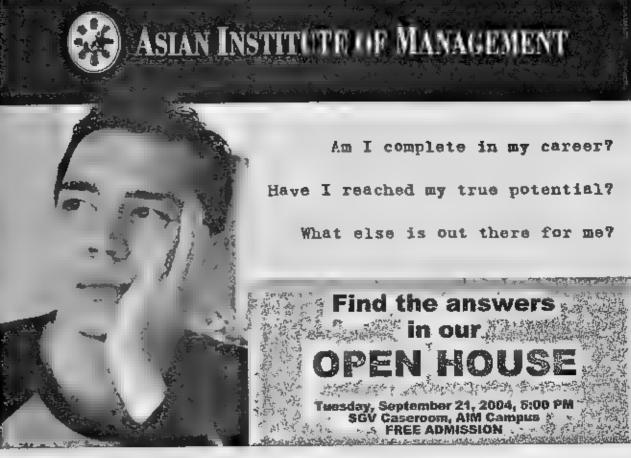
Pangilinan said the Hong Kongbased conglomerate would like to increase its stake in the Manila infrastructure project and become a more meaningful joint venture partner of Indonesian firm PT. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada.

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Non-tax measures

ARE THERE ways we can move toward closing the budget gap without new tax legislation? Is it possible to avoid a looming fiscal disaster without resorting to new tax measures?

The quick answer to the first question is yes. As for the second question, the key word is "possible." Possible? Maybe yes. Probable? No. Let me explain.

Taxpayer honesty is basic

What are the non-tax alternatives? The most important but also the most difficult way would be to plug or at least minimize the massive leakages in the government's potential revenues through tax evasion and graft and corruption. The Department of Finance had estimated in a 2002 study that

about P250 billion is lost annually to tax evasion alone. This already far exceeds the government's deficit, targeted at P198 billion this year, and P185 next year.

That is why it is possible, strictly speaking, to balance the budget without new tax measures. This one is entirely up to us taxpayers, large and small alike. This ought to be the main part of the wide-burden-sharing being asked of all sectors. Donating your jewelry and putting some money in the "Bayanihan Fund" are good, but are at best symbolic and can't get us out of the crisis. Needless to say, I would welcome being proven wrong on this. Charity is good, but more basic is honesty.

Beyond moral suasion, tax evaders



need to be deterred by a demonstrated determination to bring offenders to justice. Up to now, we're all still waiting for a really big fish to be put behind bars for tax evasion. My continuing lack of optimism on this comes from the widespread perception, justified or not, that rather than pursue the biggest among them, our leadership is even coddling them, beholden to them be-

cause of their fat campaign contributions, or because judges are for sale. If in the eyes of the public, the top tax offenders are even being re-

warded, how can one expect smaller tax erations and transactions. Congress honest with their payments?

Addressing corruption

The P250-billion estimate above doesn't even count leakages of revenues actually collected but finding their way into the pockets of corrupt government officials rather than legitimate government expenditures, Estimates vary widely, but given the wide practice of "SOPs" (the now commonly-used term for illegal commissions and kickbacks), ghost and "15-30" employees, apart from underthe-table deals between taxpayers and corrupt tax officials, the lost amount would be just as staggering.

What can be done? I would begin with a serious management (not just financial) audit of all government agencies. Lifestyle checks on officials are welcome, and need to be institutionalized. More basic is transparency in government op-

evaders down the line to become more should pass the long-pending bill on Right to Public Information. We should tap our rich and diverse NGO community and formalize a system of accredited NGO "Guardian Angels" in every agency (i.e. to guard them from sint). There should be at least two such accredited NGOs per agency (so they can watch out for each other), with each being provided full access to agency information and data. I'd suggest including this provision in the above bill. RA 9184 has already instituted procurement reforms, and the government's new e-procurement program should be adopted universally. And we must have a truly independent and unshakable anti-graft body to bring corrupt public officials to justice.

Cutting pork, fat

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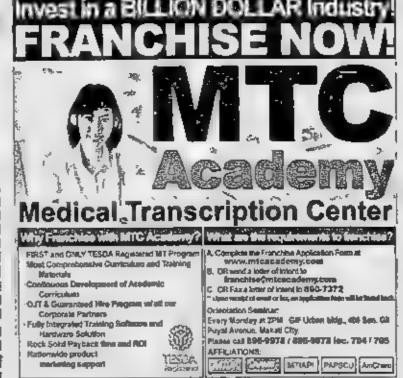
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MINCHES TENESS FRANCISCEES VAN PRIORITY LOCATIONS

FirstPac

From page B3

The Indonesian firm and state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp. own: Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., which operates the 9.3-kilometer Skyway or elevated highway running from Magallanes to Bicu-

First Pacific's local subsidiary, Metro Pacific Corp., owns 10 percent of Citra Metro Manila through Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc.

Pangilinan said First Pacific would like to come in to provide financial muscle to the P12.5-billion upgrade and integration of the South Luzon Expressway (S.ex) all the way to Batangas port.

"We would like this to be a joint venture between ourselves and the Indonesian firm," he said.

"We can confirm that work is underway at Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc. to develop a business plan for integrating one or more of the various tollway systems in the Philippines," Metro Pacific said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange

The local subsidiary of First Pacific said it was working closely with its Indonesian partner on the project. "We are engaged in discussions at various levels with government regulatory agencies as well as owners and operators of the other tollway systems."



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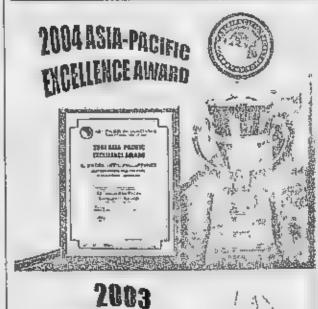
After being acclaimed as the 2004 Most Outstanding Multilevel Marketing Company from the Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards (APEA), E. EXCEL INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. thought that this couldn't get any better. But this was not until another esteemed award giving body came knocking on its door once again. Within merely four months after the APEA experience, E. Excel yet again received a similar recognition as this year's TOP GLOBAL MULTILEVEL MARKETING COMPANY from the 2004 National Consumers Quality Awards (NCQA). Not only that, but the NCQA also recognized one of E. Excel's foremost products, MILLENNIUM, as the 2004 TOP FORMULATED HEALTH DRINK.

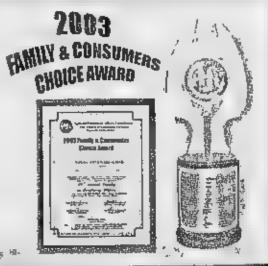
In support of the National Consumers Affairs, NCQA gave the highly desired awards last August 26, 2004 at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo. Just like all the awards E. Excel reaped, it remarkably struck high points in the criteria of Product Feature and Quality, Contribution to Customers or Public Service, Pricing, Public Opinion and Survey - leaving everyone else awe-struck.

Garnering four celebrated awards within two years, including last year's Outstanding Functional Foods and Skin Care Manufacturer from the Family and Consumers Choice Awards, is clear indication that recognition is inevitable if one is driven by a noble cause - such as sharing the gift of health and knowledge. The very cause E. Excel will continually live and uphold.

Now, all that's left for every E. Exceller to do is surpass the standards it has set for itself.







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Morgan Stanley raises 2004 growth forecast for RP to 5.6%

By Michelle Y. Remo

INTERNATIONAL investment bank Morgan Stanley has upgraded its 2004 economic growth projection for the Philippines to 5.6 percent following the government's announcement that the economy grew at an unexpectedly robust 6.2 percent in the second quarter.

Morgan Stanley originally forecast that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2004 would only reach 4.5 percent.

"The Philippine economy has performed better than we expected in the first balf of this year. Despite our belief that the economic deceleration is already well underway in the third quarter, we are raising our full-year 2004 GDP growth forecast," Morgan Stanley said in a paper on the Philippine economy.

The investment bank noted that private consumption remained the key driver of the local economy as it was boosted by increases

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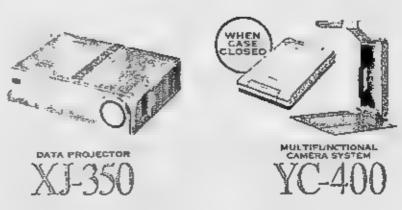
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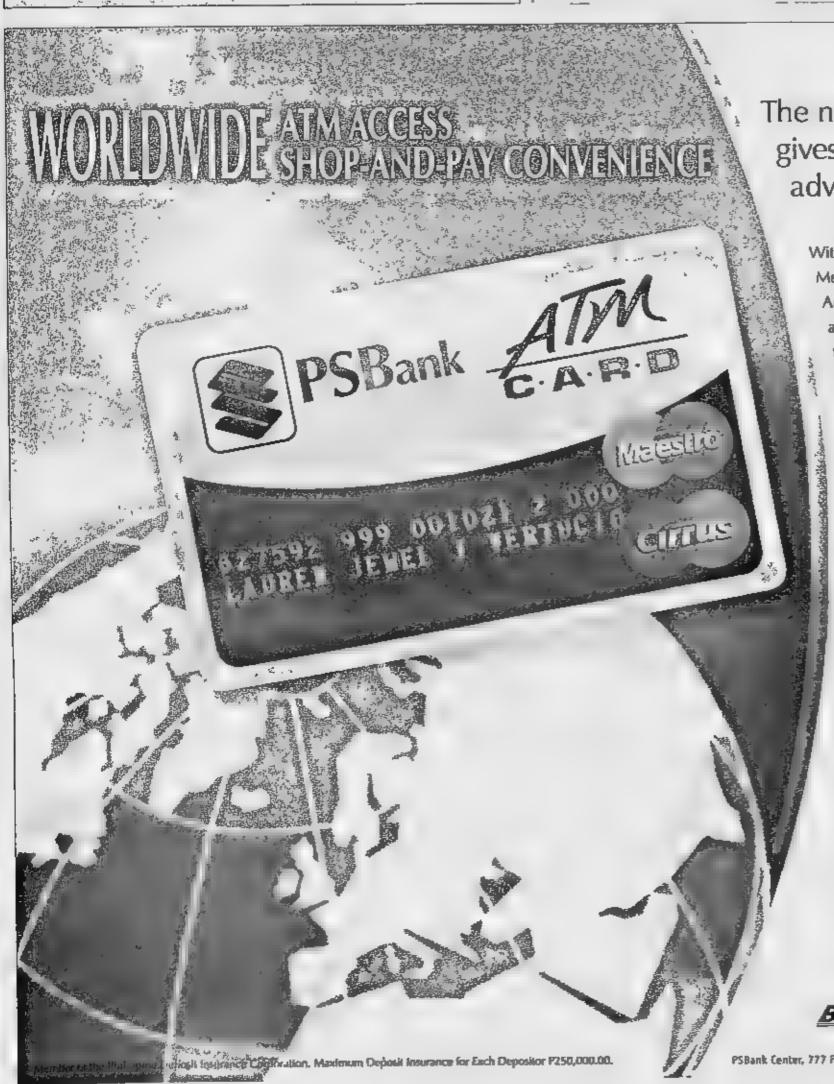


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(As of Seplember 3, 2994)

BUSINESS No change in SEC, says Barin

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THERE will be no reorganization of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), according to Fe Barin, newly appointed SEC chair.

is too early to say that since the existing setup has been in place for only two years."

"Unless their performance is wanting, 1 trust chair Liba's choice," she said, referring to Lilia Bautista, Barin's predecessor and RP's new ambassador to Belgium. "If it (SEC setup) is working, so be it."

Barin admitted that she is still studying the securines laws and its related rules. She added that her priority now would be to get to know the capital markets as much as she could, as

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well as issues pending before the SEC.

Barin has spent most of her professional life at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas since 1956 in various capacities. She also served briefly as chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission in "Directors are already there," Barin said. "It August 2001 until September 2002. Before she transferred to the SEC on Sept. 1, she was a Monetary Board member of the BSP

and the second s

The SEC has been cited as the most "sincere" government agency fighting corruption, according to the results of the Social Weather Station polls.

SEC bested 24 government agencies in the SWS Transparent and Accountable Governance (TAG) Enterprises surveys in 2003 and 2004.

Health. During this period, SEC garnered a gross sincerity rating of 76 percent, followed by the Supreme Court's 74 percent, and DOH's 69 percent.

Last year, the SEC and Supreme Court tied for first place. Then SEC chair Lilia Bautista had said she was heartened by the positive results of the reforms put up since 2000 when the Securities Regulation Code was passed.

These reforms included the reorganization of the SEC, focusing on its regulatory core functions; the demutualization of the Philippine Stock Exchange or its conversion into a stock and profit corporation from a company widely held by stockbrokers; the issuance and The top three agencies are the SEC, the enforcement of the Code of Corporate Gover-Supreme Court and the Department of nance and the computerization of the SEC.

Taguig traders form alliance

BUSINESS locators in Taguig have formed a Management, facilitated the summit. Roces business council, following the recent holding of the First Tagung Business Conference.

An institutive of the Tagung local government unit, the conference was meant to forge a healthy partnership between the LGU and the Taguig business community.

Taguig Mayor Freddie R. Tinga said he hoped that, through the council, the business sector and the local government would become strong partners in realizing Taguig's objective of becoming a prime growth hub and the No. 1 city of Metro Manila by 2020.

Taguig would have an environment conducive to business.

"For one, we will discuss with the council how to make sure that Taguig has the lowest tax rates in Metro Manila," Tinga said.

Taguig's first business summit, held on Aug. 27, was attended by key executives of existing locators led by Andrew Tan and Luke Tan of Megaworld; Charlie Rufino of Bonifacio West Development Corp.; Isidro Consumi of DMCt Holdings; Francis Roxas and Dindo Fernando of Ayala Land, Wilbur Chan, ARS International and Victor Tan, Heritage Park.

Jose Jesus F. Roces, of the Asian Institute of

asked the participants to rank Taguig under seven competitiveness drivers: cost of doing business, dynamism of local economy, linkages and accessibility, human resources and training, infrastructure, responsiveness of local government unit and quality of life.

These are the same measures the AIM uses in ranking the economic competitiveness of different urban centers in the country under the Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project.

On a scale of 1 to 10 percent, with 10 per-The partnership was meant to ensure that cent as the highest, the 35 summit participants gave Taguig an overall rating of 5.97 percent. Roces said this rating was decent enough considering that Taguig was still a municipality.

Summit participants, divided into smaller groups, were made to propose measures that could improve Taguig in terms of the seven competitiveness drivers.

Other companies represented in the conference were Robinson's Land, NBC, Ford Motors, Philtown Inc., Temic Automotive Philippines, Suy Sing Commercial Corp. PSI Technologies, Hatch Asia Building, Cats Motors, McDonald's and Food Terminal Inc.



3rd MAP International CEO Conference

"Survive and Excel In Turbulent Times"

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SESSION ON "OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND: Turbulence Notwithstanding*

This session will present a clean sweep of the business environment. While £ will state the "brutal facts" that local economies are grapping with, given an increasingly globalized environment, it, will play up areas where growth and now wealth could be created. It will showcase different solutions to common problems. It will also provide big deable stretegies and immediately actionable "to do s" for the busy CEDs and exacutives who ere looking to creating and sustaining new possibilities that will spell that elimportant top and bozzom line in the short-term and visibility in the long term. What new business models are emerging? How can businesses leverage on execute apparturates in high-growth industries



Speaker Mr ANUPAM PRAKASH Asia Pacific Global Sourcing Leader Hewit Associates (India)

Other Sessions

- SURVIVE AND EXCEL IN TURBULENT TIMES
- SMES ONWARD AND UPWARD
- CREATING A BUILT-TO-LAST FIRM
 BEING A 21 CENTURY LEADER . WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS: Identify the Critical Few Objectives of the Executive Team

Other Speakers

EVP and COO, Abraitz Equity Ventures

DE FRANKLINIC ASHRY Author of "Embracing Excellence" and the soon to be released "Back on Track" (USA)

MIT HENRY T CO President, Ford Motor Company Philippines

Broadcaster, British Broadcasting Corporation (Singapore)

Mr MARTIN P LORENZO Chair, Pancake House

Mr CECILIO K PEORO President, Lamoiyan Corporation

ME TONY TAN CAKTIONS President and CEO, Jobbse Foods Corporation

DE FICHARO S WELLING Sanor Vice President for Global Marketing, Development Dimensions Inc. (USA)

Mr Simon Benesford-Wyle SVP, Notra Asia Pacific (Singapore)

Program Overview

The 3" MAP international CEO Conference is an annual gethering of business feaders and executives with the aim of taking stock of how business is transforming across markets, geographies, industries, and sectors. This year's theme - "Survive and Excel in Turbulent Times"is a cell for action. It focuses on stratagies and opportunities - what leaders and managers can do and must do to ensure survival and sustainability in the immediate and distant future. In one day, the conference brings together a sterling cast of OEOs, renowned business leaders, management experts, economists, and media practitioners who bring a balance of business practice end perspective local, regional, and global into the overarching agends for change.

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From page B1

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September 5, 2804

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president of Eagle Equities Inc.

There may be a little correction to 1610, then the climb will continue," he added.

Analysts noted that there was a very slim chance emerging markets would face some volatility in light of the recent Russian hostage crisis, which could affect Russian equities and bond mar-

"The sentiment may spill over to

other emerging markets since Russia is an emerging market, but it (hostage crisis) won't necessarily affect world markets," said an annlyst from a local brokerage firm.

Russia's three-day hostage drama had a significant turn when commandos stormed a school in Beslan where militants had held hundreds of captives. More than 100 people were reportedly killed and 400 others wounded. Elisabeth L. Sanches

The state of the s

LBP loans to priority sectors up

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines disbursed P75 billion or 60.5 percent of its total portfolio to priority sectors as of

Landbank, which has dis odged Equitable PCI Bank as the country's third biggest bank, said on Friday its total lending to priority sectors in the first semester stood P10.4 billion higher than the end-December level of P64.3 billton.

The bank's priority sectors include the formers and fisherfolk, small and medium enterprises and micro-enterprises, livelihood projects, agribusiness, agri-infrastructure, agri-related projects and environment-related projects.

"This demonstrates Landbank's commitment to its mandate of promoting countryside development," said Landbank president Margarito Teves.

Of the total releases, loans to agribusiness reflected the largest share at 15 percent or P18.2 billion. This was followed by loans to SMEs and micro-enterprises with about 13 percent share or P16.6 billion of the bank's total loan portfolio.

Loans to farmers and fisherfolk reached P14.9 billion, representing a 12 percent share while agri-infrastructure and agri-related projects accounted for P10.2 billion and P10 billion, respectively, both accounting for Dorts C. Dumiao about 8 percent share.



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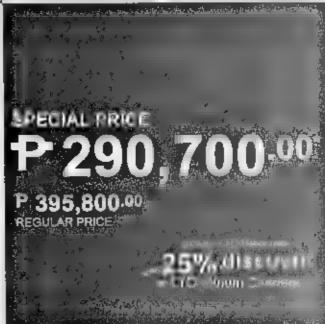
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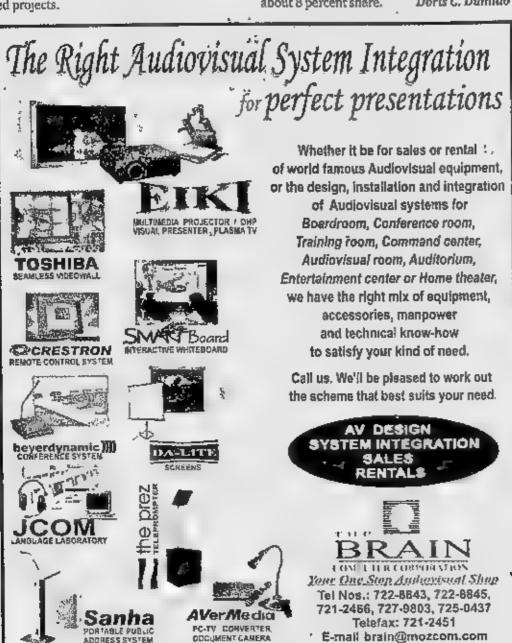


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BUSINESS

Vice president's job description

THE CONSTITUTION does not have a job description for the country's vice president except that he is at the head of the line of succession to the president. In a monarchy, he would be the crown

Richard Nixon said, "I think the vice president should do anything the president wants him to do." Over the years, this is exactly what has happened here. The prendent gave the vice president a position in the government. Vice President Joseph Estrada was head of an anti-crime agency. Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was secretary of social welfare. Vice President Teofisto Guingona was secretary of foreign affairs. Now, Vice President Noli de Castro, after begging off as secretary of social welfare, is the mass housing cast.

Unfortunately, appointing the vice president to a position in government was not always meant to give him something to do, but to get him out of the president's hair, especally when they came from different political parties. This is why I heve always been in favor of block voting for president and vice president, as is the rule in the United States. As hick would have it, we now have a president and a vice president from the same ticket.

Dwight Eisenhower considared the vice president at "a

QUESTIONS:

OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

member of the team step into the presidency smoothly in case anything happens." The vice president then must be nursed to take over the presidency if the need arises. This rule particularly applies to Vice President De Castro more than anybody else elected or appointed to that post, I mean no offense, but, of all the vice presidents we have had in recent years, he has the least experience in government. He has to be led by the hand.

As a result, the main job of Vice President De Castro is to be the President's understudy and after ego. I think they should have at least one meal together everyday during the work week. Every communication that lands on the Presdent's desk-aituation reports, briefing books, position papers, inser-office memos and cablegrams-must be passed on to the Vice President. He should attend not only Cabinet meetings, but also all briefings. As they say, anything and everything that happens in the Prendent's office, the Vice Presi-

dent is in the loop.

Being the President's understudy is a full-time job. The Presdent should give the mass housing job to somebody else.

President Macapagal-Arroyo chose Noli de Castro, and the Filipino people elected him, as Vice President. With all due respect, it is then the President's bounden duty to the Filipino people to prepare the Vice President to take over the presidency smoothly in case something happens to her. The learning process will be long and tedious With her teaching experience, President Arroyo should be a good coach. Let us hope Vice President De Castro is a fast enough learner

Then, there is the matter of security. Sitting side by side during a Pulong Bayan, smiling from ear to ear, the President and Vice President gives an aura of national unity, it is a wonderful photo opportumay, it is good public relations, it is also a grave security risk.

Whoever drew up the Pulong Bayan format obviously did not real ze that for the two most powerful and important persons in the country to be sitting side by side in a public gathering, especially out in some provincia. barangay, puts the Filipino people in grave peril. A car bomb or a grenade could decapitate the government machinery

In this age of terrorism, the Vice President should never, never travel or be seen in public with the President. In insurance, this is called spreading the risk.

For weeks after 9/11, while President Bush was rallying the American people against terrorism, and not knowing what the terrorists might still be pearining to do, Vice President Chency was sequestered in some unknown safe. place. Even now, Vice President Cheney is never seen in public with President Bush.

Whenever President Arroyo goes out of Malacañang, Vice President De Castro should be left behind minding the store, so to speak. The Vice President is the agong bahay.

And while we are on this subject of security, those Cabinet meetings in Cebu City are also another grave risk. The members of the Cabinet should never travel together and hold meetings outside Malacañang. This absurd sdea of holding Cabinet meetings in Cebu City and in the provinces should be scrapped. Bringing the government closer to the people is pure simmickry anyway.

In these times of grave perk, the President and Vice President cannot be too careful. Spreading the risk is not only good insurance practice. It is also sound government policy.

Meralco to start phase 4 of refund

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER months of waiting, tommercial and industrial customers of Manila Electric Co. may finally be able to get their refunds for nine years' worth of overcharges by January and July next year.

The Lopez-led firm submitted to the Energy Regulatory Commission last Friday its proposal on how to conduct the fourth and last phase of its P30-billion refund, covering customers using at least 1,600 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a month.

Should the ERC approve the refund proposal, Meralco refund task force project manager Cheri-Torres said the rebates would be given out by next year, with small and large commercial and industrial power consumers grouped into two different refund cate-

Refunds for Phase 4s, which covers small commercial and atdustrial customers, will be in the form of fixed credits to future bills.

Under the proposal, the refund will start in January 2005 and will go on for 36 months

Customers falling under Phase 46, for their part, will have an opnon whether to have their refunds credited to future bills or to get non-interest bearing refund

For those who will choose the credit to future bills option, the refund will start in July 2005 and will carry on for 63 months.

Customers who will choose the refund notes option will have their refunds given to them in the form of zero-coupon notes that will mature over 21 quarters starting July 2005

The last phase of the Supresne Court-mandated refund for overcharges is the costliest of all phases as this involves P18.6 billion, more then helf of the P30 billion that Meralco was ordered to give back to its customers.

The company had so far given back P0.43 billion to its customers as of end-June, accounting for 28 percent of the total refundable amount.

As of June 30, Meralco had processed refunds for 4.66 milkon customers, or 89 percent of ad clients entitled to refunds,



No free lunch

hold endless hearings supposedly "in aid of regislation," but I need to be convinced that projects can ever be justified as aiding legislation. Public. investment programming and implementation is the role of the Executive branch. Leave it to them, Legislators (including some very upright legislafors I consider good friends) talk about "political realities" that necesstate the pork. I say work to change those political realities, rather than be enslaved by them.

While there's pork in Congress,

there's fat in the Executive branch. One obviously cannot generalize, but many government agencies cannot really spend their budget allocations effectively and efficiently. Many find themselves having 20-30 percent of their annual budgets unused as of Dec. 1, then try to spend it like crazy before the year ends, I say pass their money on to the local governments, who would know better how to respond to problems on the ground. And yet what we're hearing from government now is the reverse; "confiscate" some IRA from the LGUs and give is to central government! Yes, we

should change the way some LGUs get more than their rightful share of the INA, but to cut LGU funds across the board to feed an inefficient national government is to me a perver-

There are a few more non-tax options I can name that we can pursue. But clearly, they cannot give us results overnight. Unless, of course, some out-of-the-box thinking and doing brings about a dramatic change in our country evernight. Possible? Yes. Probable? Excuse me while I retire to my prayer room. Comments welcome at chabito @ateneo. edu

Morgan Stanley raises 2004

in remittances of overseas Filipino workers and election spending

It added that increased investments and exports also partly contributed to the firs-half GDP growth, which averaged at 6.3 percent

The 6.2-percent GDP growth in the ing that even the National Economic and Development Authority predicted that the economy would likely grow by only 5.2 to 6 percent during the period.

The Neda made the prediction considering the expected slower growth in the agriculture sector. The agricuture, fisheries and forestry sector acrually expanded by 4.3 percent in the second quarter compared with the

1.6-percent growth it posted during the same period last yent

The services sector grew by 7.3 percent, while the industry sector posted a 5 6-percent growth

Morgan Stanley said that in order for the Philippines to sustain the encouraging 6-percent level of growth, the government should address problems on the fiscal sector The bank said the country's weak fiscal sector, characterized by a large budget deficit and increasing debt, remained to be the primary factor affecting efforts to boost the economy.

"The financially strapped government has caused a significant drag on the country's savings rate, which in

Programme D.S. turn has slowed down capital forma-

Stanley said. Morgan Stanley noted that the Philippines has been posting a budget deficit exceeding 4 percent of its gross domestic product since 2000.

tion and economic growth," Morgan

The budget deficit stood at F199.9 billion last year. The government's debt, which has already reached over P4 trillion, rose to 78 percent of GDP in 2003. The banks said this made the Philippines lag behind its counterparts Thailand and Indonesia, which also used to be heavily indebted, but have already

be anced their budgets and posted

subgrantial declines in debt.

ALB declined to discuss the cases, but, at-

On the strength of the third party collater-

The soured loan had ballooned to more

But Gilbert has apparently beaten AUB to

Another bank where Gilbert has a similar



BUMPORTHE PUBLICATIONS

CHTERPRISE

Heard through the grapevine A GROUP of Buendin Avenue property owners has hired a Marcos government legal engle for a concemplated class suit against the

Their beef? The Ayalas are building The Columns condominiums and now a call center on what was supposed to have been a park, at the intersection of Ayala and Buendia. avenues, as had been envisioned in the origi-

nal 1950s subdivision master plan. The park frontage was what supposedly have had enticed the Buendia group to acquire their respective properties over four

decades ago. (Email cocktaler pdr@yshoo.com or cockiales pale@hatmail.com)

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BUSINESS

DTI proposes establishment of medical zones

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is looking at establishing "medical zones" in the country as the largest health care provider in Japan committed to build a \$100-million hospital and retirement facility in the

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government made a breakthrough in its efforts to promote medical tourism through Tokushukai Medical Corp.'s plan to put up a 1,000-bed facility.

This is a good start (but) we also need to work with Congress for a law that would allow foreign doctors to practice here, even only in designated areas," Purisima said.

If a law is passed creating medical zones, he said patients from overseas-like those from would be good for the country to



PURISIMA

Japan-could enjoy care and services similar to what they get back in their home countries.

The official resterated that it

develop the medical and retirement services sector considering the rapid aging of the population in developed countries, which put pressure on the cost of health services there.

"Even if you have only Japan as your sole market, you will have more than enough (to make a viable industry)," Purisima said.

Tokushukai is operator of Japan's largest chain of hospitals, with 160 facilities including 47 hospitals. Each hospital has between 190 and 600 beds.

In May, Purisima said another Japanese firm—Sanyo Emeritus Corp.—was looking at the possibility of building a retirement village in Tagaytay City.

He said Tagaytay was being eyed due to its proximity to Metro Manila and its medical facilities.

sector had a potential to grow into a \$1-billion industry.

"The country's medical professionals are world-class and capable of performing and delivering complicated medical treatment," the official said.

"By supporting the development of the industry, the country can offer cheaper but world-class medical services to overseas patients from the United States, Europe and Japan."

Last week, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said it was exploring the possibility of making the country a prime health care destination in the world,

However, ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher said the country must first ad-

He said the local health care dress its image problems on non-English speaking market. health and hygiene as well as peace and stability.

Aiso, Philippine hospitals should be accredited with public Schumacher said there was also health care systems in the US, Buthe lack of facilities and infrastruc- rope and Japan, and with private ture, the language barrier with the sector health insurance providers.



Rules on securities custodianship OKd

By Dorts C. Dumiao

THE BANGKO Sentral ag Pilipinas has required banks and quasi-banks to surrender their securities holdings-whether local or foreign currency-denominated-to an accredited third party custodian by Nov. 16 this year.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Alberto Reyes said the Monetary Board approved on Thursday the circular finalizing the regulations on securities custodianship. At the same time, it rejected calls for the deferment of the rule's unple-

In line with this, all banks and quasi-banks will be prohibited from entering into any securities transaction with an institution that has outstanding securities that were not delivered to a third party custodian.

A securities custodian safeguards the securities of the client, holds title to the securities in a nominee capacity, executes purchase or sale orders, represents clients in corporate actions and conducts mark-to-mar-

ket valuation. The BSP has tightened the regulations on the securities custodianship and registry operations to ensure investor protection in the hope of gaining their confidence authorized the dealing bank to disand encouraging their participation in the development of the do-

mestic capital market. The use of third-party custodians, for instance, is seen to minimize unauthorized repurchase agreements as the underlying securities will no longer be kept by banks and quasi-banks.

"Those with securities transactions regardless of date of execution must comply by Nov. 16," Reyes said.

The BSP has so far accredited four banks as securities custodians-HSBC, Citibank, Deutsche Bank and Bank of the Philippine

Reyes said the BSP turned down the request to defer the effectivity date for transactions involving foreign currency-denominated securities purchased by res-

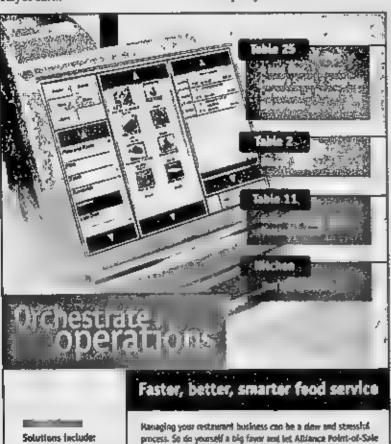
He said there was also a proposal to exempt the retail T-bonds from the custodianship requirement for the sake of small investors, who will benefit from lower transaction costs.

However, Reyes said the cost could still be kept manageable for retail investors using the registry system of the Bureau of Treasury.

The circular said existing securities holders who would prefer not to deliver their securities to a BSP-accredited third party custodian could do so subject to the following conditions:

- The custody arrangements with dealing banks have been in existence prior to the effectivity
- of the circular, The client informed his dealing bank in writing that he was not willing to have his securties delivered to a third party custodian and close to the BSP that he has out-
- standing securities holdings, · Submit a list of the clients who refused to deliver their securities holdings to a BSP accredited custodian, and,

The BSP said it would be the responsibility of any BSP-regulat ed institution to find out that the person purchasing securities from it had no outstanding securities holdings kept outside a third-party custodian.



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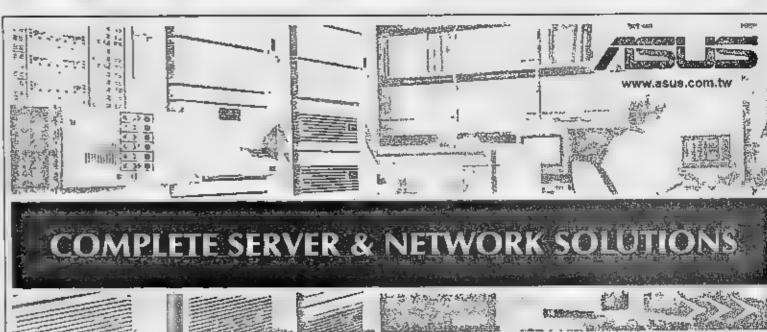
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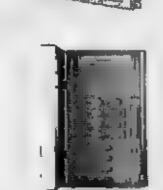
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DOF to disclose taxpayers' remittances, SALs

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IN A BID to raise the level of tax compliance, . the Department of Finance has decided that tax remittances of all taxpayers shall no longer be confidential and will be regularly published for everybody's scrutiny. The DOF has directed the Bureau of Inter-

By Michelle V. Remo

nal Revenue to publish every year the tax remittances of both corporate and individual taxpayers. The DOF is looking at publishing the tax payments via the BIR's website for easy access.

"Through this move, rich people paying small taxes will be put on the spot," said Grace Tan, finance undersecretary. "This will prod people to ask questions like, why is my neighbor, who is much well off than I, pay a much smaller amount of tax?"

The DOF official said the move to publish tax payments would complement the proposal to require all taxpayers to regularly submit their statements of assets and liabilities (SALs). With the SALs, the revenue agency could detect whether or not taxpayers remit the proper amount of taxes.

The submission of SALs is incorporated in the Tax Amnesty bill, which the House of Representatives' committee on ways and means agreed to approve this week.

Under the Tax Amnesty bill, delinquent taxpayers shall be unmune from penalties and will only be required to pay a small portion of their unpaid tax habilities. The idea is to convince underground businesses to come out so that the government may generate additional revenue from those that do not normally pay taxes.

But aside from the objective of collecting more taxes, the tax amnesty proposal is also aimed at strengthening the BIR's capacity to detect tax cheats through the use of SALs and the linkage of database of government agencies.

Tan said the DOF is pushing for the regular submission of SALs, contrary to Congress' versions of the Tax Amnesty bill requiring that the SALs should only be submitted once.

"If Congress will approve the regular filing of SALs, we can better detect tax cheats by tracking the changes in their tax remittances and by comparing their tax declarations from previous ones," Tan said.

The Tax Amnesty bill, various versions of which are being consolidated by Congress, is expected to be the first legislated tax measure of the Arroyo administration.

FPI has room for one more tax measure

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries said it was amenable to yet another tax amnesty measure proposed in Congress if steps would only be taken to ensure that this would be the last one to be implemented.

In a position paper, FPI officials said they had strong reservations on the government's move to grant yet another tax amnesty as this "entails a moral hazard due to the encouragement it will give to cheating."

The group said a new tax amnesty would help condition the minds of the public that it would be permissible to cheat since there would be future

> amnesties anyway. FPI said the 15 tax amnesties granted since 1973 leads one to question the effectiveness of such

grants "Also, forgiving tax evaders implies penalizing dutiful buslness taxpayers who are competing with

tax evaders," the FP1 officials added. Malacañang broached the subject in July, with a new rax amnesty being part of

a package of new tax measures that was touted to solve the budget country's deficit by broadening the tax base.

The government expects to spend this year some P200 billion more than its budget, roughly the same level it did in 2003.

But the FPI said it was open to the amnesty proposal. provided that measures were taken to offset the "inequitable treatment" of taxpayers who pay on time.

The group also raised concerns on whether the proamnesty posed would ensure that the so-called underground economy would surface.

"(Expenences) from previous ammesties do not bear this out," the FPI said.

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LAGUNA

Lot 63 - L3 8tk1, LA 338 sqm Minimum Bild Price: P 9,890,000 Lot 84 – L9 684: LA 374 spm Minimum Bild Price: P 2,019,600

Lot 85 - L10 83k1 LA 319 sq/n Minimum Bid Price: P 1,722,500 La Marea Phil Bgy San Antonio, San Lui 66 - _ 19 Bh8. LA 150 som Minimum Bid Price: P 855.000 Loi 67 – 120 Bits, LA 135 sqm Minimum Bid Prion: P 769,500 Lot 58 – L21 Blk6. LA 135 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 789,500 Town & Country Southville Ph7 Brgy.

Son Tomas Bifter Lot 60 1.5 Bik31 LA 112 sqm Minimum Bld Price: P 266,580 Lot 70 – 16 Bik31 LA 140 sqm Minimum Bid Prize: P 333,200 Lot 75 - L7 Bik31 LA 112 sqm Minimum Bid Price P 466 560 RIZAL

Lot 72 - Resol of Improme LA 884 sqm, FA 188 sqm L 13 & 14 Bik 10 Magsayany Ave Banker's Vitage Hi Phz, Ankpolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 1 926,000 Lot 73 - Resdt w/ Impromnt ,A 240 sqm, FA 200 25 sqm #49 Strawberry Lane Ph1-C Velley View Subd. Mayamot, Antipolo City Minimum Bld Price: P 1,800,000 Lot 74- Resall Lot; EA 400 sqm L6- ASE Bit? Abner St. with Gloria Heights Subd. Bgy Dalig, Arepold City Minimum Bid Price: P 800,000

Lot 75 - Resd'I Lot, LA 320 sqm L 10 & 12 Blk 13 Philodelphia St. Parkinds Exact VIII Phil Bay Inavewar/San textro, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price. P 560,000 Lot 76 Read Lot, LA 502 sqm L 12 Blkb Snownth 51 Parkridge Esta te Ph4 Mayamet, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price P 1,450,400

SHOW MONEY P25,000.00 CASH OR MC

ФСРМІ Enchanne Auction Managers (09:5)8458374 https://doi.org/10.1000/ |001E|213E970 M249 |001E|6334515 MA Hat

Hittproom Bid Price: P 1 102 716 Minimum Bid Price: P 786,500 Minimum Bid Price: P 201 878

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PLEASE CORP HIM ATTEMAKE I TO MINDRAW ANY PROPERTY SEFFICE THE ARCHIMATE.



Stable - We allowed

Republic of the Philippines **COMMISSION ON AUDIT**

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS -NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION - FYs 2003 and 2002

Assets, Liabilities and Equity

The Local Government Units (LGUs) at the National Capital Region (NCR), known as Metro Manila, have total Assets for all Funds (General, Trust and Special Education Funds) for fiscal year 2003 of P83.8 billion compared to fiscal year 2002 of P75.5 billion. With only 13 cities and 4 municipalities, their assets constitute 25.3 percent of the total assets of the 115 cities, 1,497 municipalities and 79 provinces in the country.

Balance Sheets (in Thousand Pesos)

	TOI	OTAL ASSETS Cash					Recentables			Other Current Assets			Total Current Assets			Total investments, PPE & Other Assets		
LGJ	Fiscal '		Increase	Fiscal	Vear	Increase	Fiscal	Year	Increase	Fiscal	Year	increase	Fiscal	Year	Increase	Fiscal		Increase
	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003		(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)
Cities																		
Calogcan	4,552,182	3,190 103	1,362,079	422,469	329,122	93,347	176,863	158,689	18,174	205,814	185,179	20,636	805,146	672,990	132,156	3,747,036	2,517 114	1,229,922
Las Piñas	1,890,243	1,591,714	298,529	467,971	316,366	151,605	19,942	51,415	(31,472)		4,819	D	492,732	372,600	120 133	1,397,511	1,219 115	178,396
Makati	18,871,635	17 148 188	1,723,447	1,341,399	1,179,617	161,782	498,478	405,570	92 908	113,618	658,507	(544,669)	1,953,495	2,243,695	(290 199)	,	14,904,494	2,013,646
Malabon	448,291	401,974	46,317	73,975	70.485	3,490	17,540	14.433	3,107	726	790	(64)	92,241	95,708	6,533	356,050	316,266	39,784
Mandaluyong	2,830,637	2,540,756	289,882	507,344	466,518	40,826	286,203	275,594	12,510	15,703	15,703	0 }	811,250	757,814	53,436	2,019,388	1,782,942	236,446
Maruta	11,755,986	10 701,122	1,054,863	1,523,688	1,005,218	518,470	759,013	1,029,942	(270,929)	1,025,696	1,053,309	(27,613)	3,308,396	3,090,469	219,928	8,447,589	7,612,653	834,936
Mankina	2,685,386	2,636,632	48,754	352,239	266,503	85,737	59,476	118,923	(59.447)	692	372,881	(372,169)	412,406	758,306	(345,900)	2,272,980	1,878,326	394,654
Muntiniupa	1,756,272	1,640,983	115,289	70,656	36,290	34,365	260,982	193,099	67,883	4,733	22,741	(18,008)	336,371	252,131	84,240	1,419,902	1,388.852	31,049
Parañaque	3,756,852	3,089,458	667,394	298,972	200 178	98,794	1,371,354	842,263	529,091	267,438	278,629	(11,191)	1,937,763	1,321,069	616,694	1,619,090	1 768,389	50,700
Pasay	3,598,838	3,087,944	510,894	226 123	236,584	(10.461)	317,018	239,952	77,066	44,714	50,350	(5,636)	587,855	526,885	60 970	3,010,984	2,561,059	449.925
Pasig	9,009,940	9,395,743	(385,803)	2,291,944	2,060,345	231,598	165,015	392,325	(207,311)	17,002	16,261	741 .	2,493,961	2 468,932	25,029	6 515 979	6,926,811	(410,832)
Quezan	16,295,172			3,273,874	2,774,801	499,073	2,435,613	2,120,085	315,528	180,607	172 125	8,482	5,890,093	5,067,011	823,082	10,405,079	9,693,753	711,326
Valenzuela	2,272,699	2,258 491	14,208	652,594	606 183	46,411	97,077	305,614	(208 537)	§_	24 329	(24,324)	749,676	936,126	(185,451)	1,523,023	1,322,364	200,659
Sub-total	79,724,132		7,280,261	11,503,246	9,548,209	1,955,036	6,466,573	6,147,903	338,570	1,881,566	2,856,522	(974,056)	19,871,384	18,551,735	1,319,650	59,852,748	53,892,137	5,960,611
Municipalities										1								
Navotas	591,748	520,609	71,139	112,810	118,433	(5,624)	613	615	(2)	24,622	41,901	(17,279)	138,844	150,949	(22,905)	453 704	359,660	
Pateros	180,232	218,643		28,580	26,273	2,490	16,475	13,909	2,566	3,103	467	2,636	48,258	40,648	7,790	131,973	177,395	
San Juan	1,652,258	1,091,400		520,507	243,369	277,139	30,340	25,653	4,687	42,390	4,707	37.683	593,237	273,729	319,508	1,059,021	817,671	241,350
Taguig	1,693,750	1,189,658		179,509	143,232	36,277	350,730	196,734	153,996	17,189	17,722	(534)	547,427	357,687	189,740	1,146,323	831,969	
Sub-total	4 117 987	3,019,708		841,506	531,306	310,200	398,158	235,911	161,248	87,302	64,796	22 505	1,327,146		494 133	2,791,021	2,186,695	
CRAND TOTAL		75 453 579		12 344 752	10.079.516		6.894.731	6 384 B14	499,917	1,968,968	2,920,418	(951,550)	21,198,530	19,384,750	1,813,780	62,643,769	56,078,832	6,564,937

	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY Current Liabilities				Long Term Liabilities			Total Liabilities			* Deferred Credits			Government Equity				
LGL	Fiscal		increase .	Fiscal		Increase	Fiscal	Year	Increase	Fiscal	Year	increase	Fiscal		Increase	Fiscal		ncrease
1	2003		(Decrease)	2003		(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)
Cities														******	.7.004	0 101 100	4 44 4 704	4 310 300
Caloocan	4,552 182	3,190,103	1,362,079	1,430,160	1,358 193	71,967	599,190	643,009	(43,818)	2,029,350	2,001,201	28,149	91,729	74,168	17 561	2,431,103	1 114,734	1,318,369
Las Piñas	1,890,243	1,591,714	298.529	112,131	147,805	(35,673)				112,131	147,805	(35,673)	76 153	82,660	(6,507)	1,701,959	1,361,250	340,709
Makati	18,671,635	17 148,188	1,723,447	1 135,843	580,656	555,186	2,369,013		(649,395)	3,504,855	3,599.054	(94 199)	431,987	363,959	68,028	14,934,793	,	
Malabon	448,291	401,974	46,317	56,576	191,987	(45 411)	26,418	32,854	(6,436)		134,841	(51,847)	15,743	9,379	8,365	349 554	257 755	91,860
Mandatuyong	2,830,637	2,540,756	289,882	627,764	588,548	39,216	216,960	153,741	63,219	844,724	742,289	102,435	109,977	111,359	(1.382)	1,875,936	1,687,108	188,828
Manila	11 755 986	10,701 122	1,054,863	3,301,270	3,211 129	90 141	448,517	269,536	178,981	3,749.787	3,460,665	269,122	369,564	494,393	(124,829)		6,726,065	910 570
Mankina	2,685,386	2 636 632	48 754	247,079	320,621	(73,542)	378 180	430,847	(52,667)	625,260	751 468		76,131	127 914	(51,783)	1,983,995	1,757,249	225 746
Muntiniupa	1,756,272	1,640,983	115,289	168,561	316,240	(147,679)	197,821	237,240	(39.419)	366 381	553,479	(187,098)	205.149	118,935	86,214	1 184 742	968,568	216 174
Parañaque	3,756,852	3.089,458	667,394	769-007	987,049	(218,042)	205,830	114,388	91,450	974,638	1,101,429	(126,591)	1,518 795	944,417	574,379	1,263,219	1,043,613	219,606
Pasay	3 598,838	3,687,944	510 894	681,763	550 777	130 966	185,826	320,236	(134,409)	867 591	871,013	(3.423)	200,811	121,761	79,050	2,530,437	2.095,169	1
Pasig	9.009,940	9,395 743		431,123	575,955	(144,832)				431,123	575,955		132,784	388,813	(256,029)		B.430,975	,
Quezon	16,295 172			1,602,701	2,282,571	(679,869)	515,248	694 192	(178,944)	2,117,949	2,976,762	(858,814)	365,592	111,412	264,183		11,672,589	
Valenzuela	2,272,699		14,208	88 603	76 494	12,109	14,369	24,589	(10,220)	102,972	101,082	1,889	136,389	331,819	(195,430)			
Sub-total	79,724,132			10,652,581	11,098,024		5,157,373	5,939,020	(781,647)	15,809,954	17,037,044	(1,227,090)	3,730,604	3,280,989	449,815	60,183,374	52,125,839	6,057,536
Municipalities																		PR 485
Navotas	591,748	520,609	71,139	106,908	113,141	[6,233)	128,746	111,809	16,937	235,655	224,990	10,705				366,093		
Pateros	180,232	218,043		21,704	45,374	(23,570)	16,725		16,725	38,429	45,374	(6,945)	13,092	9,668		128,711	163,001	(34,290)
San Juan	1,652,258	1,091,400		220 168	132 795	87,373	398,908		398 908	519,076	132,795		18,692	14.438		1,014,490	944,167	70.322
Taguig	1,693,750	1,189,656		228 539	169,076		105,000		105,000	333,539	169,076		366,210	197,169		994,001	823,412	170,590
Sub-total	4 117 987	3 019 708		577,319	460 366	116,933	549 379	111,809	537,570	1,226.698	572,195	654,503		221,274	176,720			
GRAND TOTAL	1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1			11,229,899				6,050,829	(244,077)	17,036,652	17,609,239	(572,587)	4,128,798	3,502,263	279,943	52,676,669	54,352,078	8,324,592
STATE TO THE	1-211- 4																	

^{*} Difference between totals and sun of components is due to rounding off.

Statements of Income and Expenses (in Thousands Pesos)

I I	·	TOTAL INCOME				≠ Internal	Revenue Al	lotment	Re	al Property	Гах	C		
LGU					Increase		Year	Increase	Fiscal	Year	Increase	Fiscal		Increase
	FY 2003	Rank	FY 2002	Rank	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)
Cities													5 500 440	777 000
Makati	6,636,580	1	5,141,184	2	1,497,396	418,003	403,728	14,275	1,854,804	1,149,016	705,788	4,365,773	3,588,440	777,333
Quezon	6,115,163	2	6,022,181	1	92,982	1,472,543	1,339,568	132,975	981,682	813,866	167,816	3,660,938	3,868,747	(207,809)
Manila	6,024,346	3	4,611,082	3	1,413,264	1,099,806	1,047,016	52,790	733,351	618,504	114,847	4,191,189	2,945,562	1,245,627
Pasig ·	2,818,744	4	2,479,237	4	339,507	412,402	388,439	23,963	586,519	520,595	65,924	1,819,823	1,570,203	249,620
Caloocan	1,708,174	5	1,522,457	- 5	185,717	810,319	738,767	71,552	185,460	178,009	7,451	712,395	605,681	106,714
Parañaque	1,694,875	6	1,259,778	6	435,097	362,843	345,148	17,695	429,184	223,242	205,942	902,848	691,388	211,460
Pesay	1,538,851	7	1,126,646	8	412,205	295,038	301,634	(6,596)	460,658	237,938	222,720	783,155	587,074	196,081
Mandaluyong	1,364,693	8	1,217,279	7	147,414	275,346	277,414	(2,068)	215,393	203,420	11,973	873.954	736,445	137,509
Muntinlupa	1,187,406	9	994,069	9	193,337	317,182	304,334	12,848	196,706	128.414	68,292	673,518	561,321	112 197
Las Piñas	1,068,557	10	943,656	10	124,901	375,887	373,755	2,132	126,902	86,388	40,514	565,768	463,513	82,255
Marik na	1,057,059	11	802,660	12	254,399	328 159	318,951	9,208	196,680	100,387	96,293	532,220	383,322	148,898
Valenzuela	990,425	12	936,051	11	54,374	392,664	375,762	16,902	126,807	119,692	7,115	470.954	440.597	30,357
Malabon	498 977	13	480,554	13	18,423	291,504	285,819	5,685	43,802	36,733	7,069	163,671	158,0 <u>02</u>	5,669
Sub-total	32 705 850	- 13	27,536,834				6,500,335	351,361	6,137,94B	4,416,204	1,721,744	19,716,206	16,620,295	3,095,911
Municipalities	72,100,000													
Тады д	763 122	1	703,296	1	59,826	231,467	226,678	4,789	135,375	101.697	33,678	396,280	374,921	21,359
San Juan	523,800	2	485,640	2	38 160	71,047	66,590	4.457	100,166	81,630	18,536	352,587	337,420	15 167
Navotas	273,778	3	267,737	3	6,041	122,561	115 297	6,364	28,888	44,731	(15,843)		106 709	15,520
Pateros	76,175	4	69,174	4	7,001	40,319	37,877	2,442	5,600	4,737	763_	30,356	26,560	3,796
Sub-total	1,636,875		1,525,847		111,028	465,494	447,442	18,052	269,929	232,795	37,134		845,610	55,842
GRAND TOTAL	34,342,725		29,062,681			7,317,190			6,407,877	4 64B 999	1,758,878	20,617,658	17,465,905	3,151,753

		TOTA	AL EXPENS	ES		Pe	sonal Servi	293	Maintenance ac	d Other Operal	ing Expenses	Fina	nc at Exp	enses .		I	NET INCOM			% of Net	
LGU T		,		-	Increase	Fisca	Year .	Increase	Fiscal	Year	Increase	Fiscal	Year	Increase -	FY 200	13	FY 200	02	Increase	to Tala	
	FY 2003	Rank	FY 2002	Rank	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	2003	2002	(Decrease)	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank	(Decrease)	FY 2003	FY 2002
Cities																					
Makali	4,753,406	2	3,497,405	3	1,256,001	1,554,327	1,439,968	114,359	2,941,259	1,733,808	1,207,451	257,820	323,630	(65,810)	1,895,173		1,643,779	2	241,394	26%	32%
Quezon	3,425,031	3	3,508,304	2	83.273)	1,125,929	1,200,440	(74,512)	2,247,678	2,283,576	(35,998)	51,424	24,189	27,236	2,690,132	1	2,513,876	1	176,266	44%	42%
Manda	5,184,192	- 1	3,827,115	1	1,337,077	2,148,491	2,101,983	46,508	2,970,600	1,693,943	1,275,724	45,100	31 189	13,911	860,154	4	783 967	- 4	76 187	14%	17%
Pasiq	1,515,805	4	1,233,497	- 6	282,108	663,717	582,226	81,491	851,431	650,868	178,407	457	403	54	1,303,138	3	1,245,740	3	57,398	45%	50%
Calnocari	1,366,308	6	1,265,336	5	90,973	485,620	469,379	16,242	866,976	784,583	72,393	13/12	11,373	2,338	351,866	7	257,122	8	94 744	21%	17%
Parañague	1,442,406	- 5	1 288 748	4	153,658	531,770	558,159	(26,389)	878,491	729,228	126,595	32 145	10,360	21,785	252 469	10	(28,970)	13	281,439	15%	2%
Pasey	1,083,106	7	958,084	8	125,022	495,302	479,523	15,779	537,052	448 333	52,115	50,752	30,228	20,524	455 745	5	168,561	9	287 184	30%	15%
Mandawyong	1 086 567	В	1,083,577	7	(18,010)	565 137	560,879	4,268	480,590	496 129	(15,539)	19,840	26,569	(6 729)	299,126	8	133,702	10	165,424	22%	11%
Munimupa	987,054	9	905,024	9	82.030	591,718	585,634	6,084	375,764	298,734	55,575	19,572	20,656	(1,084)	200,352	12	89,045	11	111,307	17%	9%
Las Piñas	795,029	10	517,190	12	277,839	350,712	225,586	125 126	444,317	291,604	152,713				273,528	9	426,466	5	(152,938)	26%	45%
Mankina	651,677	12	535,545	11	116 132	295,883	290,362	5.521	298,609	201,542	75,502	57 185	43,641	13,544	405,382	6	267 115		138,267	38%	33%
Valenzuela	769 185		620,782	10	148.403	337,424	326,400	11,024	425,777	286,436	139,341	5,985	7,946	(1,961)	221,240	- 11	315,270	5	(94,030)	22%	34%
Maiabon	459,176	13	394,307	13	64,869	252 488	225,151	27 337	204 484	165,414	37,310	2,204	3,741	(1,537)	39,861	13	B4,488	12	(44,687)	8%	17%
	23,467,742		19,634,913		3,832,829	9 398,518		352,828	13,513,028	10,055,298	3,457,730	556,196	533,925	22,271	9,230,106		7,900,161		1,337,945	28%	29%
Municipalities	20,400,11,42		10,00-1010	-	*																
Taguig	669 429	1	585,135	1	84,294	210,584	201,281	9,303	458,845	363,854	52,011				93,693	1	95 181	2	(1 488)	,	14%
San Juan	447,007	2	351,020	2	95,987	171 670	169,704	1,966	251,292	179,849		24,045	1,468	22,577	76,793	2	100 54B		(23,755)	15%	21%
Navotas	225 570	3	220 198		5,372	98,326		2,636	118 249	118 117	132	8,996	6,391	2,605	48,207	3	47,539		568	18%	18%
Pateros	69,923	4	57,721	4	12,202	42,584	38 156		25,046	16,835	7.714	2,293	2,730	(437)	6,252	4	10,955		(4,703)		16%
Sub-total	1,411,909		1,214,074		197,855		504,831	18,333		698,655	154,777	35,334	10,589	24,745	224,945		254,223		(29,278)		16%
GRAND TOTAL	24,879,671		20,848,997		4,030,684				14,366,460	10,753,953		591,530	544,514		9,463,051		8,154,384		1,308,667	28%	28%

^{*}Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.

^{*}The Deferred Cradits represent receivable for Real Property Tax and Special Education Tax set up at the beginning of the year, collections received in advance and other deferred credits recorded during the year.

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

P245 per column centimeter

RATES 975 per line

(All prices exclusive of E-VAT) DEADLINES

for reservations / cancellations / corrections Mondays to Saturdays Sundays 12:00 noon 12:00 noon Day before publication every Thursday

1.000 SERVICES

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The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility

and to bid for the engineering, furnishing, installing and testing (EFI&T) and

commissioning of the AFP Fixed Communications System (FCS) with an approved

Representatives are required to present a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the prospective Bidder before issuance of the Bid Documents and all other

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on September 21,2004 at 2:00 PM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Cemp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City Bidders are encouraged to submit queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference

9:00 AM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaido, Quezon City and shall immediately be followed by the 1st

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based

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Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 40.000.00) The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP

transactions thereto.

Registered bidders shall be required to visit and/or conduct survey on the proposed project sites on a schedule determined by the BAC. Deadline for submission of 1st stage bids is scheduled on October 28,2004 at

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not later than September 15, 2004, ltc Atty, Respie P. Lewenke IFC Development Corporation 7/7, Yucheopto Tower I, RCBC Plezo 6819 Ayolo Avenue,

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date: September 3, 2004 Contract No. Sp04.ORSS, Vss-0025

- Contract Name Supply and Delivery of 150 MVA, 230/135 kV Power Transformer and Accessories for Ormoo Substation
- The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supply and delivery of 150MVA, 230/138kV Power Transformer and Accessores to be delivered in Ormoe Substation.
- The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid from the Internal Cash Generalization of Transco is P 79,024,451 DO
- Application for Eligibility is optim to Pilipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers/ dealers, distributors who have the legal, technical and linencial requisites of the contract to be bid.
- Foreign bidders who wish to participate in the procurement of goods reust prove that thair respective countries of origin grant redprocal rights to Filiphio citizens with respect to procurement of goods by its government in compliance with PIA No. 5183. respect to procurement or goods by its government in duplication for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" critical and only English Bidders shall be included by TransCe in the bidding. All bids equal to or foreign than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the supplier's other to the contract under bidding subject to Post
- quelification before an award is made. But Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and calumed outlight. Eligibility & Bid Documents will be available for issuance on September 6, 2004 at the Bids and Contract Management Department Graund Floor. Power Center Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Dilman, Quezon City 1104. Telefax No. 921-23-06 upon presentation of letter of intent and a payment of non-retundable see of
- Deadline for submission of duty accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, statements and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price) shall be on October 18, 2004 1/30 P.M. at the Deica Pag Function Room, Training Center Power Cersor Guezon Avenue comer 819 Road TransCo, Driman, Quezon City Metro Manilla.
- Pre-Bid Conference shall be on September 29, 2004 at the time and venue to be ennounced later
- Manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors not yet included in the TransCo's List of registered Supplers/Contractors, who wen to participate in the public bidding, in order to lacitiate abgibility check/screening are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year
 - A certificate of Registration will be issued to suppliers/contractors upon approval

 Department of Trade & Industry (UTI) business name registration or Securities
- and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate, Mayor's permit and/or municipel license for the current year.

 Coy of Texpayer's identification Number (TIM) asset by BIR or Copy of BIR registration showing TIN:
- Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that is not "blacklisted" or berred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation.
- Audied inancial statements, stamped freceived by the BIR onto duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding catendar year

showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current essets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entitles doing business in the Philippines shall be subsituted by the appropriate equivalent documents about by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledged another authenecated by the Philippine Consulate thereat.

Prospective bidders are allowed to submit the above requirements together with their Etigibaty Porms and Documents during the deadline for the submittaxin of Etigibaty requirements and Bid proposals (Tachrical and Price)

- 10. TransCo reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or as bids without offering any research, warved any required formality therein, and to make an arrend to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
- The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules & Regulations
- Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be eddressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR S. GEONZON

(PD) - September 6 & 12, 2004)

Elids and Awards Committee

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Regional Office No. XII, Cotabeto City Tel. No. (064) 421-1928 Fax No. (064) 421-1973

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit, Region XII, Cotabato City hereby Invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for

with approved budget of P7, 544,000.00

together with the tollowing eligibility documents duly certified must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee, as basis for evaluation and assessment of pre-qualified bidders.

DTI/SEC and PCAB license and registrations, 2004 business ficense permit, income tax return for the last two years with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECE.VED" by the BiR; statement that the bidder is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government; statement of the bidder of all ongoing and completed gov't and private contracts: availability of key personnel and equipment that may be used for the construction, bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity or a commitment from a bank to extend a credit line if awarded a contract to be bidded or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount by at least equal to 10% of the approved budget for the contract; letter authorizing the BAC/TWG to varily any or all documents submitted for the abgilisty check and conflication. under oath that all documents submitted is an authentic and original copy, or

- : ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
- Bidding documents may be purchased for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P1 200.00). Issuance of bidding documents is from October 12-22, 2004. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's Check in the amount equivalent to 1% of the approved budget for the contract and shall be deposited at the Cashler's Section , COA XII, Cotabato City before the scheduled opening of bids on November 11, 2004 at 9:30 A.M. Pre-bidding conference is scheduled
- Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.
- The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any detect or formality and to accept bids as may considered most advantageous to the government.

(PDI-September 8 & 13, 2004)



Republic of the Philippi Province of Suriguo del Sur

September 3, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DEDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Republic of the Philippoints (primiting the Department of Education, his required an official Development Assistance (ODA, loan from the Japan Bank for Integration Cooperation, Institute of P. (14) Mistry V7.2.10 Mistry and Eagen Bank for Integration at Cooperation (JREC) in the arroad of P. (14) Mistry V7.2.10 Mistry and Education Agreement APR-POOL touches the financing of the Section Mary Education Development and Improvement APR-POOL touches the Integration of the Integration of school the part of the propagation of school the part of the propagation of school backurgs, it within the financial content of the Philippiness through the Deptito-Section Arthrophen and Implicate Cooperation Call. (SLL) of the Coy of Subglias Implementary Terresolution called the Agency withing to require adds for the new construction of the following. POLIR (4) STOREY SIZ PO CLASSADOM BUILDING WITH LIBRARY In Tabou M. Exhalla Malloral High School located at Barangay Tabon, Mally City. Suriges del Sur

High School located at Serengey Telate, Biblig City, Seriges del Ser

Debusserrent of the CDA local by JBIC will be sugged, in all respects, to the tested and conditions of the upon Agreement, including the observational properties and the 'Gudelines' for Programma' under JBIC CDA Loans'. No Party other than the Cadatothek' of Education shall be regard to serve any specific to the tested of the properties. The place and appropriate measures for invented and properties. The place and appropriate measures for invented that properties the properties of the properties and the properties of the place and properties are white abpropriate measures for invented JBIC CDA bore, and other Jacquese CDA colored to the newsort standard of ethics during this place event JBIC CDA bore, and other Jacquese CDA colored to the newsort of a celestrones that the purposes in the properties for event of a celestrones that the photos recorded for except the recorded and colored to the standard properties for event of a celestrone that it is considered and colored to the standard to the considering colored to the standard to the considering colored to the standard standard seat the colored properties of the standard standard seat the considering the standard standard standard seat the standard standard seat the standard standard seat the standard standard standard seat the s

- Bidding as open to all Pracquing Continuous Accreditation Sourd (PCAS), registered contractors or joint vanture contractors, wate PCAS License at least shipture A Classification on Building, Prospective Biodons Contractors and meet the remanance unit françament of trates (by years questious) in speriment. The acheolie of activities for the active tenso projects is indicated below.
- Application and Issuance of Eligibility Forms (Upon payment of a non-rel-nazos les of P208) Submission of uptter of intent and duly accomplished Application for Eligibility insulated of Bid Documents to Eligibility Observed of Bid Documents to Eligibility (Upon Dayment of non-relumination see of 5.000 duly Pre-Bid Continuace)

- Suph 14-27 2004 to 5 00PM at the BAC Secretary Office CPOO Cay Hat. Bung Cay
 500 PM of 0ct 4 2064 at the
- SAC Secretaria: Office Occuber: 1-18, 2004 at the BAC Secretaria: Office
- Oct 26, 2001, 2 do PN at the Cay Engig Cliere.
 Oby Nath Basing Cuty
 Nov 9, 2004, 2 do PN at Gay Engig Office.
 Cay Hait, Basing Cuty

All particulars relative to elepholy, bidding involution of bids, investig or contact and enforcement hereof shall be governed by the involutioning Rules & Regulations (RRP-A) of B.A. 5: 84 althorwise furnish the "Government Probustionent Reform Act".

The BAC reserves the higher registriany Applications for Eligibility, or all bets disclare a historic division in the textual are partially a money afters. This is a waterial of curvivirus, and using any act which had one properties as a delegation properties. In each advice devived forwardly binding, and to make an area of the decided proposed is most adviced any area of the bedding which is adding the proposed is most adviced any area of the proposed is most adviced any area of the proposed is most advantage out to the government.

The BAC also essumes no obligation whitisoever to compensate or historicity the bidder(or for only expenses or loss mot they only incur in the preparation of as bids, or any obligation to inform the adjusted bidder(s) on the geound(s) of GAC judion into double guarances was an avoid will be made. All communications about the addressed to the undersigned at the aforesemble address

eligibility and to bid for the following service contracts for CY2005.

SERVICE CONTRACT

Canteen Concessioning/Catering

Equipment & Peripherals

Internet Subscription

6. Rental of Shuttle Bus

10 Supply of Gasoline

Procurement Reform Act.

TO ACCEPT THE AWARD

5 Rental of Copier Machine

Subscription to Cable TV

Subscription to Local/Int'l

Newspapers & Magazines

Hardware Maint, Svc of Computer

Printing & Binding requirements

System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org

6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro or Jo Costo)

ISQdy FELIPE P SABALDAN, JRL Olemnah Bids and Americ's Committee BACs City Hall Compound Biship City Surique del Sur

Republic of the Philippines

SENATE

Passy City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders to apply for

ALLOCATION

Php 945,000 00

Php 810,000 00

Php 1,900,000.00

Php 344,000.00

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting August 30 - Sept.

13, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee per service contract also, bid bullebes on the schedules of opening of bids and other information will be sent through tax

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provision of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS

CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE

GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR

PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE

OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER

FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN

THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE

(PD-Sup) | 6 13 7694



Department of Health Center for Health Development III MARIVELES MENTAL WARD Mariveles, Balaan 2105 Tel. Fax: (047) 935-4083; (047) 935-4613 Trunkline: (047) 935-4617



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mariveles Mental Ward in Manyeles, Balaan is inviting all interested accredited contractors by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) classified as Small B Category to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects: Approved Budgel for Contract

Project Title Php 808,206.89 Repair of Observation Building Pho 34,803 95 Record's Officer Room

Repair of the Doctors' Quarters (Phase II) Php 231.075.28 The total ABC for the projects is Php 1,074,086.12 funded by the hospital income. The complete set of documents may be issued to the eligible contractor upon payment of a non-refundable see of Four Thousand Pesos (Php 4,000.00) at the Office of the Supply Officer

Schedule of Activities

- Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Pre-qualification documents Submission of Eligibility Statement
- Listing of Eligible Contractors
- assumoe of Bid Documents
- Pre-Bid Conference
- Deadline for Submission of Bids

7 Opening of Bids

Oct. 28, 10 a.m. Conterence Room For further inquiries, please call the BAC Chairperson/Secretarial at

Sept. 14-20

- Sept 21-27

- Od. 11-15

-Oct 4

Supply Officer's Office

Supply Officer's Office

BAC Chalmerson's Office

Supply Officer's Office

Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m.

Conterence Room

- Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m.

Conterence Room

Tel. No (047) 935-4613 or 935-4617 The MMW reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality herein and/or accept such bids or offers that may be considered most

advantageous to the government September 1, 2004 Mariveles, Balaan

(Sgd.) Ma. Lourdes Labarcon-Evangalista, MD

BAC Chairperson

(PD) September 6 & 13, 2004)

PRE-BIDDING

CONFERENCE

Sept. 23, 2004, 2 PM

Sept 16, 2004, 3 PM

Sept 21, 2004, 10 AM

Sept. 22, 2004, 10 AM

Sept. 22, 2004, 11 AM

Sept 21, 2004, 11 AM

Sept. 17, 2004, 10 AM

Sept. 15, 2004, 10 AM

Sept. 16, 2004, 2 PM

Php 13,600,000.00 Sept 15, 2004, 11 AM

A Department of Agrarian Reform Provincial Agrarian Reform Office J. Rosales Ave. Butuan City INVITATION TO APPLY

FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

The DAR Agusan Del Note is inviting all Survey Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for subdivision survey of collective Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOA's) located at Maguinda, Buluan City with an area of 495 has, more or less.

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 22, 2004 at the address mentioned above at 10:00 A.M. Deadline for submission of eligibility documents will be on September 24, 2004.

(Sgd.) ATTY, NOWEH MECA E, PACAMALAN BAC Champerson

(Sgd.) ANDRE B. ATEGA II ORAS-OIO

(PDI-Sept. 6 & 11, 2004)

Festivities for Our Blessed Virgin of Peñafrancia

THE PEÑAFRANCIA Devotees Association of Metro Manila, headed by it president, Dr. Charito Prieto-Feupe, is inviting everyone to the Annual Metro Manila Festivities in celebration of the Peast of the Virgin of Penafrancia, our Beloved "Ina", the miraculous Patroness of the Bicol Region.

Join the Triduam of novema prayers and masses for "Ina" at the St. Andrew the Apostle Church at Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo St.) Be.-Air Makati, every 6 p.m. on Sept. 9, 10, and 11. Bring your petitions to our Mother for Her loving intercession.

Join the traditional Penafrancia Fluvial Procession along the Posig River on Sept. 12, Sunday at 4 p.m. from the Hospicto de San Jose, Ayala Bridge, our embarkation pourt, to Jones Bridge. Experience this centuries old tradition.

Highlight of the festivities will be a Solemn Concochrated High Mass, led by Bishop Nestor Cariño, at the Manila Cathedrol on Sept 12, Sunday at 6 p.m. Let us honor "Ina" with our presence and our proyers.

Please join us and experience the loving intercession of "Ina" for us.

For inquiries, call the Peñafrancia Devoices Association's Secretariat at \$31-5177, 531-9430, 531 5906 and 531-6158

Construction of Two (2) storey Dormitory building

A) Deadline for the submission of Letter of intent is on September 21, 2004

lastistic reproduction from the original.

on October 28, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Sond,



(PDI: Aug. W. Sept. 4, 2004).

MADE

Where you find the best.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

anos, aniliantes/homedoj, www.fa 20 11214

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AND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID for the CENTRAL MIS (DATA WAREHOUSING) MODULE 1 - DEPOSITS and TRADE MIS PROJECT SYSTEMS INTEGRATION and DATA WAREHOUSE IMPLEMENTATION

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) is conducting a public bidding for the Central MIS (Data Warehousing) Module 1 - Deposits and Trade MIS Project The bidding will be governed by Republic Act 9184. Prospective Systems Integrators/Data Warehouse Implementers (SI/DWIs) should be registered with LBP and/or the Department of Budget and Management – Government eProcurement Service (DBM-GEPS). The selected SI/DWI will accomplish the following tasks:

Provide the required technology components (i.e. hardware, software, training) and all the related

services involved, including: Delivery, installation, testing and deployment of the hardware and software components that will serve as the foundation infrastructure of the Data Warehouse covering all the

Identified MIS requirements of LandBank, Design, development, implementation and testing of the first two (2) Central MIS Projects 1.2

- Deposits MIS and Trade MIS. 2. Train and transfer knowledge to all identified LandBank personnel on the operation and

maintenance of the Data Warehouse for the Bank to attain self-sufficiency;

Develop and install the identified support systems including documentation and submission of ati related manuals of operations and other necessary systems documentation.

The project is estimated to require up to eighteen (18) months after the award of the contract. however LBP will consider all bids whose project schedules do not exceed twenty four (24) months.

The minimum requirements for interested registered suppliers are as follows:

Solid SI/DWI experience and capabilities; and

Stable financial performance for the past three (3) years (2001to 2003)

Preference shall be given to registered suppliers who have previously handled and successfully completed SI/DWI projects with Philippine Government agencies or their instrumentalities and/or domestic banks, other financial institutions and/or service-oriented companies.

interested SI/DWIs may secure the Requirements for Eligibility and Short Listing for the Public Bidding of the Central MIS (Data Warehousing) Module 1 Project Systems Integration and Data Warehousing) house implementation from:

> THE IT-BAC SECRETARIAT c/o Florencio Mariano or Alona Manabat Technology Management Group LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES 16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza 1598 M H. del Pilar comer J. Quintos Sts., Ermita, Manila 1004, Philippines

(632) 405-7123 or 405-7455 Telephone (632) 528-8578 Contact Person : Head- IT-BAC Secretariat ITBAC@maxi.landbank.com Emal. address

Said eligibility requirements shall be available at the above address from September 1 to 16, 2004. from 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. (GMT+08:00). All queries and/or clarifications should only be made in writing through formal letters sent by fax and/or email messages to the IT-BAC Secretariat.

All responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements must be submitted on or before <u>September 17, 2004 (Friday) up to 11:45 a.m. only. (GMT+08.00)</u>, to the CHA!RMAN of the IT-BAC through the Head, IT-BAC Secretariat. Only those parties who have passed the Eligibility Requirements and have been short-listed may participate in the actual public bidding for the Central MIS Module 1 Project Systems Inte-

gration / Data Warehouse Implementation. Short-listed bidders shall be notified accordingly. Bidding documents (e.g. Terms of Reference / Bid Specifications, Selection Criteria for Bid Evaluation, Post-Qualification Criteria, Proof-of-Concept Requirements) may be secured from September 24 to October 4, 2004, from 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. (GMT+08:00). upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000) and upon signing of a

Contidentiality Agreement. All short-listed bidders will be invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on October 8, 2004, (Eriday) at 10:00 a.m. (GMT+08:00) at the 10th floor, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manufa. Deadline for the submission of all technical and financial proposals is on November 12, 2004 (Thursday), at 11:00 a.m., (GMT+08:00), also at the 10th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, payable to the Land Bank of the Philippines subject to Sections 27 and 28 of the IRR of RA 9184. Requests for additional information and/or queries on the information contained in the bidding documents should only be made through formal letters sent by fax and/ or email messages to the IT-BAC Secretarial.

The schedule of opening of the technical and financial bids is on November 12, 2004 (Friday) at 11:30 a.m. (GMT+08:00) at the above-mentioned address. The quality-cost based system shall be followed in evaluating the technical and financial bids.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is One Hundred Thirty Million Pesos (Php 130,000,000). which shall be sourced from the funds of the Land Sank of the Philippines. The budgeted amount is inclusive of VAT and all applicable taxes and duties.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formalities in the responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) GILDA E. PICO EVP, Agrarian and Domestic Banking Sector/ Chairman, IT-8AC

[POI Aug. 30 & Sept. 6, 2004]

Pault in Fly Bidg., MIA Road corner Domestic Road, Passay City

I. SERVICE SHOP ADVISER/SHOP SUPERVISOR (1)

With the responsible for furning the day-to-day operations of the repair shop and dealing with costomers. Saming

2. SEPATCHER/RECEPTIONST (4)

1. AUTO ELECTRICAL/ AIRCON TECHNICIAN (1) Activist 5 years working expensions in automo

4. PUMP ATTENDANT (5)

 Zi years old, cologo level
Fringe benefits & other impositives must the right applicants. Apply to person with proper cleerances and crederials faring office hours and must have good references. Only applicants with proper

WANTED

MED TECH (with license) **MED SECRETARY**

Not more than 30 yrs old

With Pleasing Personality

Computer Literate

Apply in person with resumé & new 2"x2" ID Photo on Sept. 9, 16, 23 & Oct. 7, 2004. 2-5 p.m. only. 1503 Annapolis Witshire Plaza,

No. 11 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID NPC-MMSD 2004-016

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to

CHIC ROY ILLIS H	mound reformemen	ta.		
Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
i	Sept. 27, 2004 2:00 P.M.	Power Quality Analyzer for Banlayan DPP "MAN"	P8040905-MMER1374 (P8 2)	1,300,000.00
ü		Mechanical Parts for Politic DPP "Perfons"	PB040927-MMS81734	2,331,108.00
ţÌI		Electrical Parts for Puerlo Princesa DPP "Pielstick"	P8040927-MMAR(1735	2,434,500.00
IV	Sept. 28, 2004 2:00 P.M. Kañao Room	Mechanical Parts for PB 115 "Perlons"	PB040719-MMJP1239 (PB 2)	2 117,575.00
٧		Drydoclong of Power Barge 111 located at Kalamansig, Sultan	PB040928-MMVB1736	3,000,000.00

NOTE . A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedulu	Date	Time	Place
Schodule i - IV	Sept. 13, 2004	2:00 P.M.	Manages Function Room
Schedule V	Sept. 13, 2004	3:00 P.M.	Morienes Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Dwision, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/ 9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PMP 500.00 per schedule starting on September 3, 2004, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding

Birds will be received at the assigned Birdding Floom, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibitity Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184

The Bidder shall lumish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the d budges for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit -- One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee -- One and a half percent (1.5%). Surety Bond -- Two and a half percent (2.5%, penal and callable on dermand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office

NPC reserves the right to reject arry or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, wave any dejects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may vicur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

> (Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee MMSD-NPC

(PDI - Septembor & & 13, 2004)

Where





WISTS US AT ww.jobaue ketoeline.com



PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA) is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the sale or lease of eleven (11) lots on a serviced land basis, located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

1. Properties for sale or lease

BLK		LOT	AREA'(m²)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE
A2	11	comer	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	comer	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
85	1	noihog	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

'Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation. which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding. Lease: Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation,

public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines 3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents

upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check starting 12 August until 20 September 2004 from 9 00 AM to 5 00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.

Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates 8rd and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 22 September 2004 on or before 1 00 PM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 1:30 PM, of the same day.

5. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone number 817-4711 to 13 (trunk tine) and 813-7103 to 7104

> (Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD General Manager/CEO

(PDF+Amp. 10. 16, 21, 26, Sept. 2 is 6, 2004)



41st PMAP Annual Conference

GO FOR THE WIN:

Better, Faster, Happier, Stronger

September 29 October 1, 2004

CAP - John Hay Cultural Center Camp John Hay **Baguio City**

والمقارفان بالأراب والمحال والمحال والمتحالية والمتحالية

INFOTECH

Smart enters wireless Internet mart with Meridian buy-in

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva Contributor

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), through wholy-owned subsidiary Smart Communications, is set to enter the wireless Internet market after buying 40 percent of the common shares of Meridian Telekoms Inc.

PLDT and Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto told Infotech that the deal will broaden the wireless service offerings of Smart.

have satellite, cellular and wireless broadband internet services," Isberto said.

PLDT said in a separate statement the "acquisition will chair Myla Villanueva denied strengthen Smart's position in the news that the company was being wireless data segment and is in line with Smart's overall strategy of providing the widest range of witeless services in the most innovative manner possible."

Isberto said the deal is expected to be finalized by the end of

"With this acquisition, we now 2005 but will be subject to various regulatory approvals, especially if Smart intends to increase its stake in MTI to 100 percent.

> Last week, Meridian Telekoms sold to Smart.

She said "there was nothing major happening in Meridian. But it is doing a lot of projects with (Smart). So I think it was misinterpreted," Villanueva said in a telephone interview.

relationship ends and starts," she

Villanueva said Meridian will remain independent, as it expects to introduce more aggressive pricing for its fixed wireless broadband services to the smalland medium-sized enterprises beginning next year.

Earlier, a former telecommunications executive who declined to be named told inforech that Smart was buying Meridian be-

"I really don't know where our cause it was interested in the wireless broadband market in the Philippines. "It is a done deal," the executive said.

> Meanwhile, Mosaic Communications Inc. president William Torres said the acquisition of Meridian would benefit Smart. "This deal will widen the ser-

vices of Smart," he added. Torres said Smart is obviously interested in Meridian's fixed broadband wireless technology called Wi-Max, which it has been

offering to Philippine clients. He said Smart is also likely interested in using Meridian's fixed wireless broadband network to interconnect its cellular networks.

Wi-Max provides wireless connectivity to organizations. Unlike Wi-Pi (which is essentially a wireless local area network) which provides connectivity up to a radius of 300 feet, Wi-Max extends up to 15 kilometers or even farther, making it a wireless wide area network.

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POWERTIPS

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By Jerry Liao Contributor

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AMD partners with Oracle, Sun for enterprise market

partnered with Oracle and Sun Microsystems to penetrate the country's enterprise market, an official told Philippine reporters.

While the chipmaker has yet to put up an office in the Philippines, AMD is starting to "create demand" for its high-performance Opteron chip that will work with Oracle's 10g technology for grid computing on Sun boxes.

Tan Hong Hock, regional manager for enterprise business development for AMD South

ADVANCED Micro Devices (AMD) Inc. has Asia Pacific, said the AMD-Sun-Oracle partnership also intends to "encourage" Philippine independent software vendors (ISVs) to develop solutions around the technology of the three vendors.

Tan said the partners will assist ISVs in commercializing homegrown solutions on a regional level.

The AMD executive admitted that, in the Philippines, the chipmaker has traditionally

year, it will roll out more initiatives to break into the enterprise space.

Meanwhile, Gunasekharan Chellappan, regional director of alliance and channels of Oracte Corp. South Asia, said the joint initiative of the three vendors will enable small- and medium-sized enterprises deploy the soft-

ware vendor's 10g technologies. Oracle, in collaboration with SunPhil and AMD, will assist ISVs in porting applications been strong in the consumer market. This to Oracle 10g, he said

Provincial students hunger for more news on IT

From page B16

would take every opportunity to learn as much as she could and share the same experience with her classmates.

There were so many things I learned here that I'm sure would not immediately reach our school. When I get back, I'll give insights on what are the latest being used," she said.

Some of the students who attended Y4IT said their IT knowledge mostly centers on technical

aspects and is not geared for business of bioinformatics. practical application. That changed when the students got acquainted with some of the Y4IT speakers who spoke about careers in IT. Among the careers mentioned were in bioinformatics, mobile application and gaming development.

A student who requests anonymiry said prior to taking up an technologies and where these are IT course, he was already studying biology. He took notice of what Dr. Alvin Marcelo of UP Manila's medical informatics division said about the growing

The student said he was just plain curious about IT when he was still a biology major. But after hearing what Dr. Marcelo said, he knew there's a place for biology in IT He plans to enter this field later.

Third year computer science student Josef Buac, also of UP Visayas, said he became more convinced to enter the mobile and video game development business after sitting through the presentations of Microsoft, Level-Up! Games (distributor of Ragnarok) and Ateneo de Mamia, which is classmates," Buac said.

doing mobile applications. Previously. Buac thought that mobile application and game development were largely for enthusiasts. He later realized that these were serious industries that could become major markets where the Philippines could excel.

"I never realized I'd learn this much in so little time and there is so much more to learn. I'm happy I was sent to attend this event. I just wish more of us could attend but I'll do my part by imparting what I've learned here to my

A Force to reckon with

From page B16

As my encounter with Boss Nass shows, however, just because you're playing a character in Star Wars doesn't mean anyone's gonna want to make a movie about you-at least, not yet. I have to confess that prior to last week, I've never played any MMORPG, or any MMO game for that matter. But since a free 14-day trial version of the full SWG game is currently available for download, I figured I might as well take on one of the biggest and best MMORPGs for my first encounter.

After activating the trial account, it was pretty easy to get into the swing of things in SWG. In fact, I wish I skipped the tutorial phase (you have the option to do this) because any question you might have can be easily answered by browsing the in-game Holocron, which you can bring up either by clicking on the appropriate reon on your HUD (head's up display) or by pressing Control H. After logging on, you have to create a character, first by selecting which server (which is referred to as a galaxy). Your choice of server will determine on which planet you'll start out and whether it will be lightly or heavily populated with other players.

Next, you have to choose your character's race and gender, whether you'l, play a human, Rodian, Mon Calamari, Bothan, Wookiee, Twi'lek, Trandoshan or Zabrak, You can spend time customizing your character's locks or just randomize. Then you'll have to pick out a starting profession. artisan, brawler, enterrainer, marksman, medic or scout.

The beauty of SWG is that the classes of characters aren't restrictive. You're not just a fighter of a ranger or whatever, but can choose which skills you'll specialize in-you can even become a jack-of-all-trades, but this means it will be harder for you to get far in any single profession. These six basic professions only provide the basic abilities of your characters-my character, for example, is a brawler and I decided to train in the use of two-handed weapons. I could have just as easily chosen to specialize in unarmed combat, one-handed weapons and polearms, and in fact 1 sull can since I've also gained experience points in unarmed combat. SWG doesn't offer levels (a 15th-level fighter or a 20th-level magic-user, anyone?), but you have an upward path to advanced professions based on the specializations you choose. And if you decide at some point that your heart is really set on becoming an enterta ner rather than a warnor, you can choose to change professions and live the life you want without be-

ing penalized for it. After the initial tedium of creating your character, the first thing you'll notice about SWG is that it's a gorgeous game. You feel that you're actually exploring the sandy wastes of pable of killing. I'm talking tills, kree-



that you really are in a galaxy far, far away. The good news too is that SWG was designed with 56K dial-up users in mind, so you don't need broadband to enjoy all this beauty without lag and atrocious frame rates. In fact, just to test LucasArts' claim, I tried playing it with a PLDT Vibe dial-up connection, and I'm happy to report that I didn't experience any difference from playing it with my DSL connection. Whether on dial-up or DSL, bowever, every now and then the game does have some graphical hiccups-when you're entering a new building or area for example—but this doesn't happen that often. More annoying is the obvious draw-in distance—I hate it when parts of the terrain suddenly pop out as you move closer. Also, since you have a 3D camera that you can adjust to different angles, I caught a hilamous glitch when your character is swimming in water. If you move the camera at a certain angle, the water disappears and your character will look like he's floating on air. Just check out the screenshot.

One of the drawbacks of SWG is actually something that's common to most MMORPGs and traditional RPGs, for that matter-all that damn walking. You have no idea how huge this game world is until you've walked from one city to another, and another, and another—and this is just one planet. Sure, you can take a ride at a shuttleport to go to another city or even at a starport to go off-planet, but when your character's a poor shmo who's just starting out, you want to hold on to all the credits you can. But no matter how gorgeous your surroundings are-and in some places SWG looks really amazingyou really do get tired of walking and walking. Let's have a show hands. Anybody out there who's really excited about walking? Didn't think so, yet you spend hours of your precious inreal-life time doing just that. Not exactly the glamorous stuff you want to base a movie on, huh?

Also, since you're starting out as a pretty weak, "first-level," at first you're limited to the old reliables of hunting down assorted bugs, rats and reptiles because they're all you're ca-

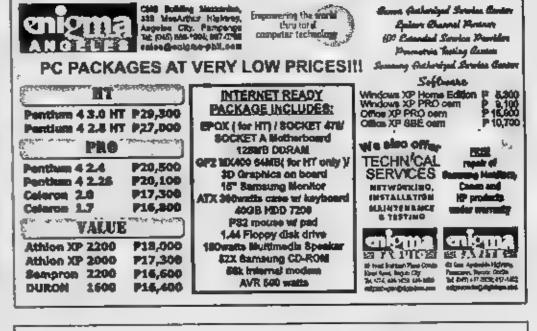
Tatoome-my starting planet-and tles, slum rats and lesser womp rats-sure, some of them may be big creatures, but fighting them won't exactly make you the stuff of legend. Plus your starting missions will be of the FedEx go-fetch or hunt-and-destroy variety. That's life when you're a grunt. No princess to save, just yet.

So far, playing SWG has been just like real life, with moments of boredom interspersed with thrills and fascinating encounters. The question is whether you're willing to invest that much time on exploring these worlds. That's the thing about MMORPGs, I think, which makes them riskier than offlue RPGs and other plot-driven games—the fact that there's really no storyline to move you forward. Sure, there's a bigger story in SWG and as you rise up the ranks, you might play a pivotal role, but for the most part you're creating your own story. The success of SWG depends not only on the world and tools the developers created, but also the stories each player will churn out and the communities they will build. It's the difference between, say, a traditional RPG like Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic and a MMORPG like SWG. The first experience is like being part of a movie, with a scripted (though flexible) plot and interesting NPCs, while SWG is more like a sandbox with raw materials that you can shape in different ways. That kind of freedom is great but it can also be overwhelming and even boring, if you don't have strong story elements and truly interactive NPCs. Otherwise, the burden is solely on the players, and you have to remember that not everyone on SWG is really interested in role-playing. I mean, it's great to chat about Star Wars trivia or movies or whatever, but how does that advance the experiences of your character or move the story forward? You might as well just go to a chat room.

Till then, my main motivation is to level up until I can teach a certain bunch of Tusken Raiders a much-

needed lesson. Test PC specs: Pentium IV 2.8E GHz, 512 MB RAM, 128 MB GeForce FX

Minimum system requirements: 256 MB RAM, 4X CD ROM, 32 MB VRAM, 2000 MB disk space, DirectX v9.0.





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17.

Let your Cellphone Show Some



Take a techie trip Techie Steve

tech savvy Hey there, Guess buddies! what-Addict Mobile has a wild new feature that'll blow you away... and it's called Addict Skins! That's right, as all you techies know, skins are usually used in computers to change the look and color of your PC's Interface. But hey, now you can do the exact same thing with your Addict Mobile phone! All you gotta do is download it straight to your Addict Mobile, SMART Gold, SMART Infinity and SMART Buddy handset. To get this exciting content, just text SKINS to 211. It's fun, it's easy and it only costs P30 per downloadt There are so many to choose from: 3 Musketeers, Barney, Bench, Cartoons, Elton John, FHM, General, Godskitchen, Hoobastank, Catwoman, Horoscope, Day After Co lateral, Tomorrow, Garfield, Matrix, Peter Pan, Shrek, The Notebook, Van Helsing. Oympics, Pacha, PBA, Peanuts, Scenes, SMART Brands, TV Series, UAAP and more to come! So go on guys, give it a go! Add some pizazz to your Addict Mobile phone and let your friends see the passions that run deep within you. Till our next tech-capade, chill and I'il be back with more wild tech news-- only from





MANY provincial schools still rely on traditional, theoretical approaches to learning which only work for more established courses such as accounting, math and engineering. IT, on the other hand, has a much more dynamic approach.

Provincial students hunger for more news on IT trends

By Alexander Villafania Contributor

COLLEGE students of provincial IT schools are not as privileged as others in the country's educational system. This becomes evident when IT graduates from provinces could not secure proper employment in IT companies because they don't have the necessary skills companies are looking for. Many IT graduates end up working with lower paying jobs, often not even related to their course.

Partly to blame is traditionalism. Many provincial schools still rely on traditional, theoretical approaches to learning which only work for more established courses such as accounting, math and engineering. IT, on the other hand, has a much more dynamic approach. Concepts and ideas often change as fast as the technology and it's hard for schools

Some students who attended the recent two-day Philippine Youth Congress in Information Technology 2004 (Y4IT) workshop in UP Diliman had very basic knowledge of many new developments in information technology. A few admitted that their school only provided theories and barely discussed the movement of technology on a practical ap-

Some students said they are taught on a theoretical level-almost all of their lessons are done through books and classroom-type teaching. Field lessons like practical develop-

ment approaches would have greatly improved their studies.

On the other hand, students do not blame their schools for any shortcomings, but instead praise their schools for making proactive efforts to bring IT students to an event such as Y4IT

"My colleagues and I are still lucky that our school sent us to D.I.man to learn the trends and developments in IT," one student said.

Another student, Marceimo Pajita Jr. who is taking up BS in Information Technology at the Divine Word College in Laoag, Bocos Norte, said he appreciates his school's approval for him to go to the Y4FT event.

"One of my objectives is to learn as much as can about the IT industry and not just the technology that runs it. This way, I could better understand my course and be able to decide where I want to apply what I've learned,"

But apart from understanding the IT industry and the speed by which the technology changes, another objective of Y4IT is to have attendees share their experience with each other. More important, the event calls for students to share experiences with their classmates when they return to their schools.

Carol Liza, a computer technology student from the Isabela State University, said she wants to relay what she has learned from Y4IT to her classmates. According to Liza, an event such as Y4IT comes rarely. Thus, she PROVINCIAL/BIS



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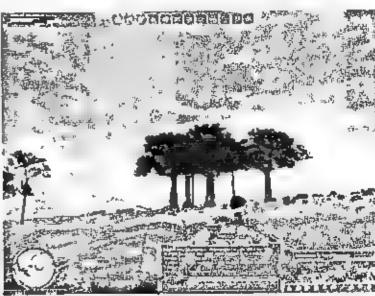
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SWIMMING in mid-air thanks to a glitch

A Force to be reckoned with

By Joey G. Alarilla Contributor

AND so, after miles and miles of walking, clumbing mountains and swimming in this part of Naboo, I finally reached the Hidden Gungan Sacred Place, when who do I see but a familiar figure from the wretched new Star Wars trilogy: Boss Nass.

Okay, so this was hardly as thrilling as seeing Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker or Princess Leia, but still Boss Nass wasn't your run-of-the-mill NPC (non player character). So let's see, will he send me off on an important mission? Will he give me vital information that would help me play a bigger role in this Galactic Civil War? Can I attack him and finally ger some payback for having to endure "The Phantom Menace"?

Well, no, the only option I have is to converse with him, and all Boss Nass has to say is: "Yousa not supposed to beesa here. Mesa not an elite group. speke wit youse now."

Welcome to "Star Wars Galaxies (SWG): An Empire Divided," the massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) that lets you live out your dreams in the Star Wars universe, If you've always wondered what it's like to be a character in Star Wars, this game will allow you to explore different possibilities, from becoming a bounty hunter to pursuing a career as a bio-engineer to becoming the most famous dancer in the galaxy. If you play the game long enough and get backy, you might even be able to unlock the Force Sensitive Character Slot and end up with another character who can take the long difficult path toward becoming a Jedi or faming to the Dark Side. After celebrating its first anmiversary in June, SWG only has a few Jedi and those that exist lead very difficult lives, so if you do eventually end up a Jedi Master or Dark Sith, you know you're in

A FORCE/ B15

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E-mail: pr_business@inquires.com.ph Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

New SEC chief's rule: Tight lips on pending cases

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PACKING her boxes from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has not always been easy for former Monetary Board member Pe Barin, who recently assumed office as the new Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chair.

Barin, who replaces incoming Ambassador to Belgium Lilia Bautista, leaves a little piece here and there, probably some documents on her desk, while getting teased that it must be some form of premonition she will come back, being one of the longest serving employees of the BSP with over 40 years spent there.

But it is with a full heart that she is tackling her new assignment in the SEC.

She says her appointment was quite unexpected having spent she was and will be. She rells half of her use already at the BSP

She says although her husband had been a junior partner at a law firm .ed by former president Diosdado Macapagal, she had been in government long before she even got married and before President Macapagal-Arroyo's father was president.

"When you work in government, the financial returns are nothing to crow about. I like the



life of a politician. It is interesting. I don't have political ambitions but it is an opportunity to serve," Barın says.

Some brokers have been curious on what kind of a regulator them to look at her short stint as chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission from August 2001 to September 2002.

During her term, generation and transmission charges for the National Power Corp. were set.

The ERC at that time also confirmed that Lopez-led Manula Electric Co. had collected from its

How not to fix the deficit crisis

By Dennis M. Arroyo Contributor

MEDIA reports on the fiscal crisis have opened up a host of solutions. This article will point out dead-end alternatives. They were rejected by the UP economists in their paper, as well as by other authorities. I will cite former cabinet secretaries.

'Grow our way out'

The idea is to push the economy to grow by 7 to 8 percent for a few years. The deficit will become less of a problem: incomes will rise, allowing more people and firms to pay more taxes.

The trouble with this argument is that it's unrealistic. We haven't experienced such high growth in decades. Even if attained, 8 percent growth is difficult to sustain.

'Cut the budget'

But vital social spending is already low or failing in real terms. Spending on education and infrastructure is threatened because of the fiscal crisis. In fact, education and infrastructure should be increased by P43 to P64 billion per year for the sake of competitiveness.

Besides, the real cause of the deficit is not an overblown budger but (1) falling revenues and (2) the state's habit of assuming the liabilities of government cor-

'Focus on the revenue side'

The main problem is lack of

government income, so the state should tweak the BIR.

But corrupt spending also matters. Filipinos evade paying taxes partly because they see the money being misused. For example, the road users' tax was meant for road maintenance-not for emergency employment via beautificanon. Regaining public must is vital for getting people to pay

A related problem is "infunded mandates." Congress legislates new expenditures that are

not backed up by new revenues. Here's a cure from former Fi-

nance Secretary Isidro

Camacho: "We must encourage Congress to adapt the proposed Fiscal Responsibility Act which will ensure that all future legislation creating additional expenditures or tax incentives are accompanied by revenue measures to make them fiscally neu-

'Monetize the deficit'

That is, the government "prints" money to pay its debts to

But this will cause double-digit depreciation as well as inflation.

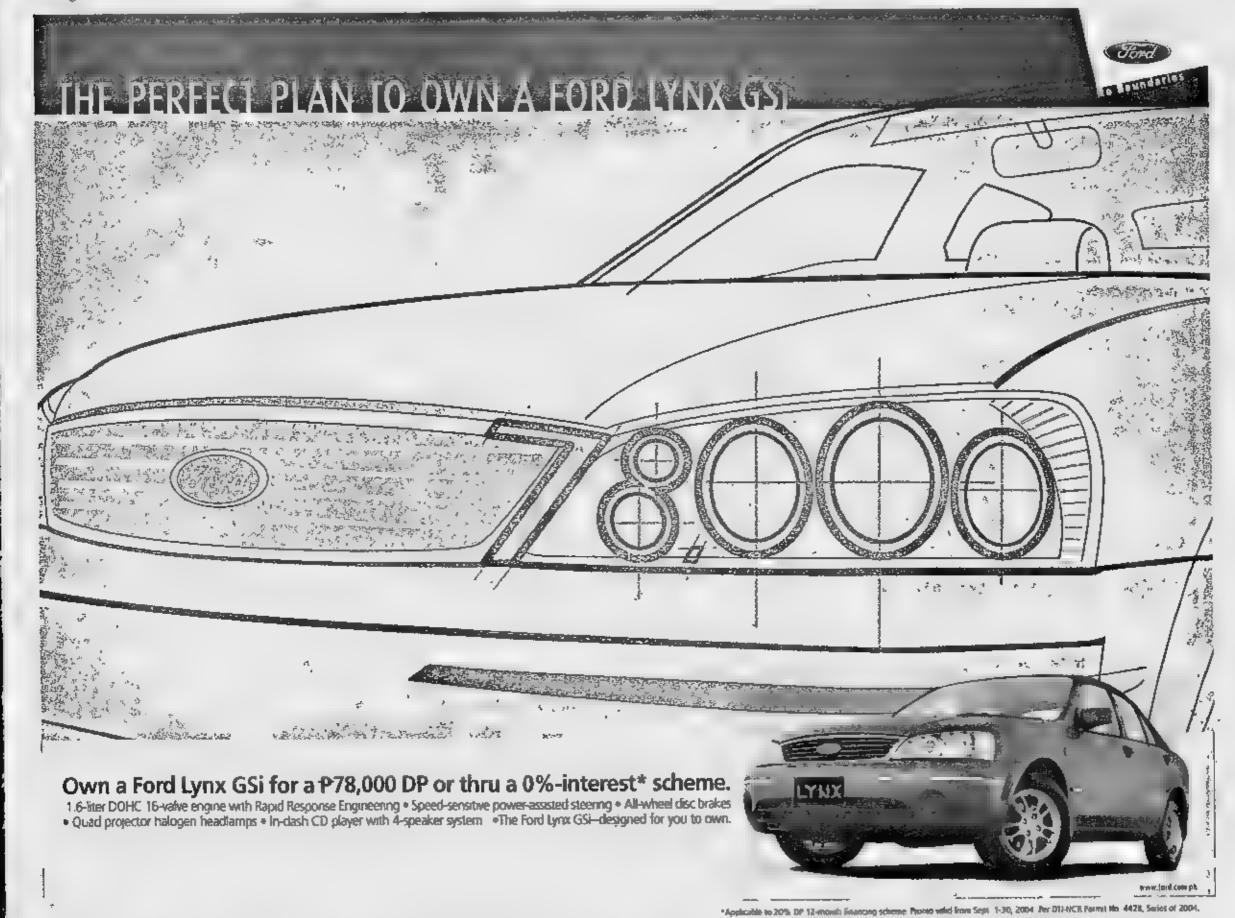
The decreciation (the fall of the peso against fore gn currencies) wil. swell the foreign debt bur-

The threat of depreciation will also lead to capital flight. Capital controls will have to be installed to stop this But the nation has never succeeded with capital controis, even during the dictatorship era.

And we do not want an era of hyperinflation.

Shrink bureaucracy now

There is a need to cut the dead-HOW/B2-2





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BusinessMonday

Survive and excel in turbulent times

"SURVIVING and living your life successfully requires courage and risk-taking, Learn from the turtle -it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck." Anonymous

The Aug. 24 headline of the Philippine Daily Inquirer read, "RP already in midst of fiscal crisis-GMA". The same article made reference to the warning of the UP School of Economies Faculty that the Philippines is facing an economic crash in two to three years similar to the Argentine collapse.

According to "The Webster's New Riverside Dictionary," Crisis is "a decisive or crucial moment." Turbulent is defined as "causing disturbance or unrest;" unrest as "a state of turmoil;" turmoil as " a state of great confusion."

What causes confusion?

Normally we see confusion when there is much uncertainty. Uncertainty is present if: (1) the country will weather or not this economic crisis; (2) there is an anticipation of worsening political, global developments; (3) purchasing of large ticket items are being delayed and there is a preference to remain liquid; (4) there is a belief that prices of shares and real estate have not bottomed-out yet or are not expected to go up anytime soon; (5) people are thinking that the worst thing to be, is to be a seiler, in this "buyer's market".

What must we not do?

First, we must not have a "victim" mentality. Instead of pointing the blame on everyone else (government, environment, politics, unfair competition, wrong people, weather, etc.), we should hold ourselves accountable for our country's performance. Someone once wrote, "It's all right to sit on your "pity" pot every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done." Second, we must not do those

things that subconsciously keep us from taking action, as follows: (1) we engage in unrealistic optimism. Many times we deceive ourselves by thinking things will get better soon even when there is no basis. (2) We stay in fear Sometimes we are so overwhelmed with our situation that we are paralyzed into inaction and we never actually acknowledge the problem. (3) We wait to be rescued. Instead, we should be our own hero. (4) We don't beheve we will overcome. We must have unwavering faith. There is no crisis beyond the capacity of the Filipino people to solve; no challenge is too great!

What must we do?

First, we need to accept what is happening instead of dwelling on the "why?" Second, re-tool by extracting the maximum learning MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Franco G. del Rosario

from our experiences and equipping ourselves with new skills and knowledge. Third, move forward by having personal humility to grasp facts not yet understood. During these turbulent times, one principle in Jim Collins bestseller book, "Good To Great" becomes even more important: "Confront the brutal facts. This includes having a conflict resolve for intense discussions in order to come up with the "best answers" each time to any of our business situations.

Fourth and the most important is to get the wrong people off the company. There are two statements off the same book of Jim Collins, that we must keep in mind, as follows: (1) "The single most harmful step you can take in a journey from Good To Great is to put the wrong people in key positions." (2) "The only way to deliver to the people who are achieving is not to burden them with the people who are not achieving."

New business landscape

In a sea of uncertainty and ambiguity where change is the inevitable constant, the choice is sim-

affoat will not suffice because sustainability is the real challenge.

Business models and wealth creation strategies are changing. Leadership and management, now more than ever, need to come to the fore as organizations renew and reinvent themselves to respond to the realities of the new business landscape. There is no single formula for success. But there are road maps, benchmarks, and shining examples of people, organizations and businesses that know how to survive in turbulent times, and do so excellently!

On Nov. 11 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, the 3rd MAP International CEO Conference will take stock of how business is transforming across markets, geographies, industries, and sectors. This year's theme, "Survive and Excel in Turbulent Times," is a call for action. It focuses on strategies and opportunitieswhat leaders and managers can do and must do to ensure survival and sustainability in the immediate and distant future.

What's in it for you?

Hereunder are some benefits to be had from the Conference:

· Real-time understanding of forces that give rise to new business opportunities as well as those that threaten the very foundations of long-standing businesses.

 First-hand exposure to successful models of small to big diversified business organizations from across industries and markets.

 Appreciation of the increasing interrelatedness of business and geographies in a global economy and what it means to business people in the Philippines.

with respect to Leadership, Change and Embracing Excel-

 Developing your specific and immediately actionable agenda for that much needed breakthrough in leadership by you and your executive team

The CEO Conference's speakers are an excellent mix of foreign and foreign-based Filipinos as well as our own CEOs and sentor management who shall come together in one forum to expound on their well-honed business savvy and experiences.

First, the keynote speaker is Ernst & Young's "World Entrepreneur Awardee," Tony Tan Caktiong. He is followed in a session on "Opportunities Abound: Turbulence Notwithstanding" with Amupam Prakash of Hewitt Associates and Rico Hizon of the BBC.

Two great Filipino leaders speak in the session, "SMEs Onward and Lipward", namely: Martin Lorenzo of Pancake House and Cecilio Pedro of the "Hapee" brand toothpaste.

We have an afternoon keynote speaker, Simon Beresford-Wyle, CEO of Nokia Asia Pacific. He will be followed by a session on "Crearing a Built-To-Last Firm", featuring Erramon About of Aboutiz Equity Ventures and Mr. Henry Co. of Ford Phihppines.

We have Dr. Franklin Ashby, a . Tapping into latest thinking renowned speaker and author of several books that will cap the conference and will be speaking on Being a 21st Century Leader" together with Mr. Richard Welms of Development Dimensions Inc. Dr. Ashby wraps the conference with "Identifying the Critical Few Objectives of the Executive Team."

> Dr. Ashby has written numerous books, such as, "Embracing Excellence", "World Class: How Terrific Organizations Get and Stay That Way," "Revitalize your Corporate Culture" and "Effective Leadership Programs." The delegates to this conference will be among the first to hear Dr. Ashby before he launches his latest book this fall, "Back on Track." Dr. Ashby was formerly Vice President, Instruction & Chief Learning Officer of Dale Carnegie & Associates, Inc., the world's largest leadership training organization.

The author is Chair of the MAP CEO Conference Committee, Chair of Sharexchange Brokers and Managing Consultant of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback mapsec@globenet.com.ph.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only



STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.

The Insurance Standard



(The Cooperative Partner of Zurich Financial Services, Switzerland)

STATEMENT

This is in response to an article entitled "Not 'standard' procuce" dated September 1, 2004 in a minor broadsheet by a business writer who has maliciously misinformed the public by misinterpreting the audited financial statements of Standard Insurance Co., Inc.

This is with regards to the qualification as stated by its auditors, SGV & Co., on its recognition of the deferred reinsurance premiums in 2003 and 2002 under its existing reinsurance contract with a subsidiary which is not in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Philippines (also known as GAAP).

The misinformation and misinterpretation by the said writer declares the company as troubled financially and compares its accounting to those of Enron, WorldComm and Parmalat.

The consolidated financial statements of Standard Insurance as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 as reported by its independent auditors, SGV & Co., are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the Philippines, except for the recognition of deferred reinsurance premiums under the treaty reinsurance contract for its motor car insurance with a wholly-owned foreign subsidiary.

The qualification, contrary to what is stated in the article, does not have any effect on and does not reclude the company's net income and networth, from a legal standpoint. Otherwise, the auditors would have stated such effect or reduction.

Standard Insurance has been transparent in its disclosure and recognizes such qualification under the GAAP. It has been consistently publishing its audited financials for the benefit of the public.

In the industry, the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2003 of Standard Insurance Co., Inc. will show:

THE HIGHEST	(în P'000)
Combined*	
Premiums Earned	1,384,195
Net Underwating Income	525,508
Income from Operations	182,670
Paid-up Capital	600,000
ONE OF THE HIGHEST	
Net Premium Income, combined*	1,814,877
Net Income	200,374
Net Worth	1,140,989

*combined with eStandard Insurance Corporation (formerly Zurich General Insurance Philippines, Inc.), a wholly-owned subsidiary

The malicious misinformation and misinterpretation of the article, which will be legally dealt with by Standard Insurance, follows the manner by which certain competition has maligned the financials and reinsurance facilities of Standard Insurance together with the misrepresentation as the cooperative partner of Zurich Financial Services. This is outright unethical and unprofessional.

We welcome fair competition on the basis of merits and we encourage other companies to also publish their financials and reinsurance facilities for the benefit of the insuring public.

Standard Insurance is committed to continuously improve the quality of service to the insuring public by raising the standard of competency, professionalism and integrity.

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC., The Insurance Standard has the Inghest Paul-up Capital in the andustry at P600,000,000.00; Backed-up by Renauters highly rated by Standard & Poor's, Accredited with most Banks & Financial Institutions; Quality Management Systems-ISO 9000:2001 Certified; Widest branch network located in key chies of the country: The leader in Motorcer Insurance and a Major Player in Non-life Insurance; The only Insurance company with its own Technical Department which provides Technical Assistance all over the country.

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New SEC chief's rule

From page 82-1

customers P12.3 billion in purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges without authority from the ERC. The company was later asked to stop the unauthorized PPA collection.

At the SEC, she promises to keep an open mind, regardless of what she hears about the reported politicking between stockbro-

"I'm looking forward to a relationship marked with candour on both sides, they should not be hesitant to let us know what they think. It will not be presumptuous of me to speak for the Commission that we will always be there ready to listen," Barin says.

Barin rose from the ranks, working in various capacities at the old Central Bank of the Philippines from October 1956 to

November 1969

A graduate of law at the University of the Philippines, she transferred as assistant legal counsel to state deposit insurer Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. in 1969 until May 1973 In 1972, she became a member of the joint International Monetary Fund- Central Bank of the Philippines Banking Survey Commission which initiated major reforms in the Philippine financial

In the middle of May 1973, she moved back to the Centra. Bank as assistant secretary to the Monetary Board for a brief period and then was appointed secretary to the Monetary Board and special assistant to the governor in 1974. She held that position until her retirement in 2000. She was extended for another year as consultant to the BSP from March 2000 until August 2001 before moving to ERC.

After her brief stint there, she moved back to BSP this time as member of the Monetary Board in December of 2002.

She admits she is still studying the securities laws and related rules to prepare for her position as new SEC chief. She added that her priority is to get to know as much as she can about the capital markets and issues pending before the SEC given that her field of expertise is with the regulation of financial metitutions

As a matter of policy, she said she also keeps a tight up when it comes to pending resolutions and prefers not to discuss openly with the media if matters are yet unde-

She says however that her doors are open for discussions and will uphold principles of good governance—fairness , transparency and accountability.

How not to fix

From page B2-1

wood from the public sector. The state pretends to pay them, and they pretend to work. But retrenching now will only lead to spending for their retirement packages, thus worsening the deficit problem.

Downsize the bureaucracy when the revenue measures are in place, when the deficit has stabilized.

'Abolish VAT, return to GST'

The problem here is that a general sales tax cascades.

Taxes are imposed on taxes. For example, sari-suri stores buy from wholesalers. A 10 per-

cent sales tax on the wholesale good is passed on to the sari-sari store, which imposes another 10 percent tax. The poor are hit TWICE.

In contrast, VAT cuts the scope of evasion, as compared to the general sales tax. People have the incentive to ask for their receipts so they can be added to their deductions.

'Tax text messages'

Smart, Globe and Sun are raking in gazillions of pesos, so why not tax them?

It's true that the telecom companies are making much money. But the growth benefits are reaching the poor at the micro retail level. Individual agents and sure-san stores sell load cards.

Besides, the huge sums from texting are already flowing to the government via the corporate income taxes paid by the telecom giants.

Return to gross income tax The ranonale for this is to sim-

plify a rather complex tax system. It also cuts discretion in deductions-which devious BIR agents

However, a one-size-fits-all approach won't do. For example, travel and training costs are large expenditures in a consulting firm. and yet they can't be deducted under the GIT. The present system is fairer.

'Ignore the self-employed'

The rationale is that they are really hard to tax, so focus on those with 9 to 5 jobs.

However, for every P1 rax collected from fixed income earners, only 10 centavos is collected from self-employed professionals.

A solution for this, as proposed by former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara, is to set presumptive income levels for professionals. This concept is used in various countries.

For example, some research "used estimates of doctors' fees and multiplied them with the number of patients and clinic hours to determine 'minimum income levels "

In fact, the BIR can use the yellow pages to tax-map the self-employed This was proposed by former budget secretary Gulliermo Carague.

What about the small entrepreneurs, the informal sector, Divisoria?

Former finance secretary Roberto de Ocampo proposed deploying ROTC endets or students doing their internship. They can map these hard-to-tax groups even in Divisona.

dennisar-Comments ot

royo@yahoo.com

The Quezon City Science High School group

of Trina Napasindayao, Melanie Melchor and Jayson Reggie Obos won fourth place for its en-

try that proved the effectiveness of an endemic

water-borne bacteria called Vibrio Fischeri 🕬

"The fact that we are of different races and cul-

Obos was excited and he had expected the

"But while it is true that our resources pale in

tures was overwhelming," Napasindayao said

when asked how she felt when she got to the fatz

fair to be very difficult because "our resources"

comparison with those of our peers from other

countries, we have proven that Filipmos are real-

ly intelligent and resourceful. Winning awards

despite our handicap is a proof to that," Jayson.

"We were really challenged, the fair

brought out the best in every one. But the best

thing about the experience is the friendship

and bonding that we had with people who

share the same interest as ours," Katrina said.

The students said the ISEF changed their lives.

sue my dream. It has become my inspiration

and it made me prouder to be a Filipino. The

fair made me realize we can be ourselves and

still shine," said Joy Anne, the youngest of the

tries who had their own laboratories and re-

search facilities in their schools, the Pilipino

delegates, all from public schools, had to

practically beg for the use of the research fa-

cilities of certain institutions and private uni-

funds to provide all public schools in the

country with the needed equipment, the stu-

dents called on the government and private

institutions to open their doors and lend their

The students also called on these institu-

"Filipinos can do so much even with scarce

tions to adopt and make use of their projects

resources, imagine what we can do with a blt

facilities to young scientists like them.

more of these resources," Rivera said.

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Acknowledging the scarcity of government

Unlike their peers from developed coun-

batch, who is now a high school senior.

versities to pursue their projects.

"It strengthened my determination to pur-

pollution indicator in waters.

Challenge

days later not only with their medals and cash

prizes, but, more importantly, with a different

experience, a new kind of confidence and the

pride in learning how brilliant and resource-

Mark Leo P Bejemino, a 17-year-old student from Philippine Science High School-Western

Visayas Campus in Iloilo; 15-year-old Joy Anne

L. Aquano of the E. Rodriguez Jr. High School in

Quezon City; 16-year-old Anna Kristina B.

Bautista of the Philippine Science High School

in Quezon City, and Domengo C. Vargas Jr. of the

Claro M Recto High School in Manila competed

in the individual categories in applied science,

medicine and health, microbiology and envi-

Adumo won two awards for her project

that involved the extraction of a new anti-mi-

crobial drug from sea snakes and brought

The six other Filipino students consisted the

The Manila Science High School team of

two groups that competed in the team category.

Alan Ray E. Gonzales, Maria Katrina Rivera and

Anne Margrette Velasquez won third place for

its project that involved the development of an

electrode from green mussels that can detect

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Now it's time to

the presence of lead in bodies of water.

ronmental science, respectively.

home prizes amounting to \$1,500.

ful they were to win despite their handicaps

were not sufficient. *

BUSINESSMonday

Young Filipino scientists share their breakthroughs

By Corrie Salientes-Narisme

STUDENTS celebrate sports, more than their breakthroughs in math, science and engineering, says Wendy Hawkins, Intel Corp. director for education programs.

That, Hawkins said, prodded Intel to take it upon itself to ensure that important innovations in these fields would not be left annouced.

And what better way to celebrate important breakthroughs than by putting together all these brilliant young people for a few days to give them the chance to learn from each other's achievements and exchange ideas and experiences with people who share their interests.

What better experience could one share with the next generation of Innovators than an opportunity to hobnob with the world's smartest people-the real scientists and technical experts who made modern-day advancements possible.

These exactly are what Intel Corp. is doing through the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's largest gathering of high school students who excel in science, math and engineering.

Flagship program

Intel ISEF forms part of intel Innovation in Education, the company's flagship corporate social responsibility program, which also involves the Intel Teach to the Future project-a training program for teachers and would-be teachers on the more effective method of teaching with the use of technology

For Intel, Hawkins said the ISEF "is more than a science competition, it is an investment in the next generation of scientists and engineers."

The fair aims to drum up the interest of the youth in science and technology in the hope of encouraging them to further explore ideas that may one day change the world, she added.

"We invest in education because it is critical to our (intel's) success. We need the supply of well-trained students to become part of the andustry and of a strong customer base," she said.

Through the years, the fair had shown its genuine impact on participating students to do further research, ask questions and seek the answers to their questions on their own.

Taking over

The fair started in the United States 55 years ago as an inter-school competition with only about 30 American students participating.

The number grew steadily over the years to include students from other countries, makling the fair an international event.

Intel took over the sponsorship of the project In 1996, committing millions of dollars yearly to develop and promote the program. It has since expanded to involve 40 participating countries and more than 1,400 high school students competing for four major award categories and various special awards, and for prizes worth \$3 milhon in cash and scholarships.

The yearly fair, held in the US, is the culmination of local and national science and engineering competitions held by each of the participating countries.

It is in these local and national fairs where the hard work on the part of the high school

students begins and ends. When the brightest in these competitions are selected, all that is left to do is to send them to

the Intel ISEF to showcase their work. The Philippines selects its delegates to the intel ISEF through the yearly intel Philippines Science Fair, sponsored by the microchips gi-

ant's local unit. For next year's batch, Intel had already started the search for outstanding young Filipino scientists, starting with the high school division level competition to be followed by

the regional competition. The national competition, to be participated by major winners of the regional level, will

be held on Feb. 15 to 17, 2005 The winners will be sent to the Intel ISEF to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, in May next year

Wealth of experience

"Select the best, encourage the rest."

friends. It provided me incredible motivation to create the absolute best projects that I was capable of doing," the former participant interviewed by the fair newsletter said. The Philippines' 10-student delegation to this year's fair in Oregon shared the same experience and more. They left the country with hardly any idea of what to expect. Seeing for the first time the more than a thousand other high school students they would be competing with intimidated many of them, knowing how scarce their resources were and how advanced the other students from the other countries were. But the 10 of them returned home a few

PROUD to be Filipinos: Student-delogates pose on stage after the awarding coremonles at the closing of the 2004 Intel ISEF in Portland, Oregon.



'It made

be a

prouder to

Filipino.

The fair

made me

realize we

ourselves

and still

Anne

shine'-Joy

tastfood chains of 2003

can be

RP's delegates to the 2004 Intel ISEF during the victory party back home.

That is the judges' and Intel people's mantra during the week-long international affair so that when the fair is over, the students will go back home, win or lose, with a wealth of experience to inspire them to do better in their chosen fields.

This year's Intel ISEF was held on May 10 to 14 in Portland, Oregon, with 1,429 participating students from around the world.

A former student-participant, in an interview published in the fair newsletter, said the Intel ISEF gave him an extraordinary experience.

"Only half of the five-day fair involved the preparation, presentation, judging and awarding. The rest was spent on other social activities such as concerts, dancing and others that gave us the opportunity to socialize and meet our peers," he added.

The students partied, played and chatted. The exhibit hall served not only as a showroom for the participants' works, but also as a venue for socializing.

Hawkins said the fair aimed to give the students the chance to meet and work with real scientists and engineers, explaining that "a conversation with those people has a real potential and a great impact on the students.

Thus, the students got to meet and talked to many of the over 1,000 scientists and professors who served as competition judges and observers during the event.

Students are also given the chance to dialogue with the best and the brightest in their fields.

For this year, the Intel ISEF student-delegates were treated to an afternoon of dialogue with some of the world's Nobel laureates such as Robert Curl of Rice University, chemistry (1996); Dudley Herschblach of Harvard University, chemistry (1986); Leon Lederman of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Physics (1988), Norman Ramsey also of Harvard University, physics (1989) and Richard Roberts of New England BioLabs, medicine (1993)

The experts were generous in sharing their wisdom with the students.

From them, the students got useful tips in pursuing their dreams and goals in life, particularly in the field of science.

"In science, you can miss over and over again and they wait for you," said Herschblach.

"Be alert. Some people had luck but they let it pess them by If you have a big idea, pursue it with vigor. If you picked something and you were not successful, don't give up, there are more big ideas to pursue," Ramsey said.

"Do not be too conservative. Explore many ideas before settling with anything," Curl added. The students also had a chance to meet with

Intel chair Craig Barrett and listen to Pat Gelsinger, Intel's chief technology executive, who posed the fair's big challenge to the participants.

"We are challenging, encouraging, motivating you to be the next innovators," Gelsinger told the thousands of participating students during a forum.

Motivation

"In high school, I did not know anybody else who had the same interest as mine, and it was difficult to make friends with people who did not have similar interest. But at the fair, I was able to meet many people and make great

BENGAY*



The country's most-awaited badminton event takes place this September with the Bengay Badminton Showdown 2004, the National Non-Ranking Tournament, supported by the Philippine Badminton Association. Open to all badminton enthusiasts with over P200,000 in cash and prizes at stakel \sim

> Eliminations to Semis September 17-19, 24-26, 2004

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For inquiries, please call: Enrie Legaspi (Stratworks) Tel # 893.7472 to 73 Ted Abello (Team Powerplay) Tel #812.0887 or 0917.3324533

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DOM-SFAD Permit No : 9957 Series of 2004

AIM gets two major accreditations

By Marlet D. Salazar

IN ITS 35 years of providing top-level education to business people, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), reaffirms its rightful place in the industry by getting two successive accreditations.

The European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) gave AIM its European Quality Improvement (Equis) accreditation in late 2003, while the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) conferred its accreditation to AIM early this year. These are stamps of excellence for AIM's 30,000 alumn; from 65 countries. The prestige is synonymous with quality and gives distinct advantage to their careers.

According to Ricardo Lim, the associate dean of the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business, AlM is one of only two schools with dual accreditation in Asia, the other being Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

agement, Master in Development Management, Master in Entrepreneurship and Executive MBA. Degree programs give the students the chance to further hone their skills in their field of choice. Degree programs allow students to undergo rigorous training to

One of two

Equis is a leading international system of quality assessment, and accreditation of higher education institutions in management. In the Asean, AIM, again, is one of the only two business schools with the Equis label.

Insead and the London Busmess School are just some of the schools with Equis accreditation.

The EFMD Equis peer review team said of AIM. "An outstanding institution, the engine of this institution is commitment to regional relevance, business opportunities and quality. It has a culture of a strong collegiality, a bold yes for the needs of its environment."

League for Harvard

AACSB's standard-by-standard performance analysis put AiM in the league of Harvard, Wharton and Stanford, It is the North American accrediting entity of graduate schools of business management. Member schools of AACSB all share one ultimate purpose; to prepare students to enter useful professional and societal lives. It also aims to help these schools meet the challenges of relentless growth of global economic forces, conflicting world values,

fast-changing technology, and even demographic diversity.

AlM's degree programs are academically solid. They have proper conceptual, analytical and breadth content. (Their) programs have a strong orientation to practice and quick application to business and organization situations," the AACSB peer review team said.

Thriving courses

AIM also offers courses, which are also thriving. The non-degree programs target all levels of management, and range from one week to four weeks in length.

"One of the reasons these are very successful," lam said.

AIM's major degree programs are: Master in Business Administration, Master in Management, Master in Development Management, Master in Entrepreneurship and Executive MBA. Degree programs give the students the chance to further hone their skills in their field of choice. Degree programs allow students to undergo rigorous training to and them in the real world. These also provide them with conceptual foundations, upto-date knowledge, analytical tools and people management and leadership skills. AIM is not only successful here in the Philippines. It has taken its courses to countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and India.

WP partner

AIM's proneering process in providing management excellence earned it the selection of World Bank as its strategic partner in Asia with the establishment of the AIM World Bank Global Distance Learning Center.

"This makes AIM the first private management education institution in the world to partner with World Bank," said Lam, who's been teaching with AIM for 13 years, and has a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

AlM has shaped the minds and personalities of aspiring, enterprising young men and women from all points of the globe. It continues its commitment to management excellence by being a world-class institution hurdling the challenges that it faces through all those three decades. It managed to be the best of the best and its name become synonymous with excellence and strong leadership.

China seeks Filipino expertise in business

By Tina Arceo-Dumiao

MOST Chinese living in major cities like Shanghai know Filipinos for their unequaled singing talent.

But with the entry of Filipino investors to China, such as San Miguel Corp., Liwayway Manufacturing Co., Limketkai group, Jollibee Foods Corp. and Figaro group, the Chinese are discovering that Filipinos have a knack for business, too.

Zhang Hengde, secretary general of the Council for the Promotion of International Trade in Shanghat, said in a recent briefing that the successful foray of Filipino businesses into China is adding to the goodwill long enjoyed between the Chinese and the Filipinos.

Liwayway Manufacturing, for instance, which manufactures the Orshi snack line, has 16 factories in China

Food and beverage giant SMC just announced the start of construction of its 7th plant in China, which would entail an investment of \$45 million for the non-alcoholic beverage manufacturing plant.

Jollibee, on the other hand, has recently acquired control of China's leading fast-food company, Yonghe King, after making its first payment for an 85-percent stake in the company.

The SM cham likewise has a firm foothold in China with its joint venture company that runs two SM City malls in Xiamen, with more malls in the pipeline.

The Figaro coffee chain, meanwhile, plans to put up the first two outlets in Shanghai by the end of the year.

"It used to be that we knew more of Filipino bands, but with a lot of professionals coming into China, there is greater respect for Filipinos as businessmen," Zhang said through an interpreter during a recent meeting with Filipino business people.

Zhang added that Chinese businesses were looking forward to forging more joint ventures with Filipino



ZHANG Hengde (center) leads the delegation from Shanghai seeking to touch base with RD firms.

firms, as demand increases for services and investments.

Shanghai is a particularly good investment site due to its huge expatriate community and high spending power of the population.

While the majority of the Chinese live on a per capita annual income of \$1,000, Shanghai enjoys as much as \$5,000.

Huang Wen, secretary general of the Court of Arbitration of China Chamber of International Commerce, said that the association was prepared to help Filipino companies interested in joining hands with Chinese companies to set up a business in the city.

"We bridge organizations to bring Filipinos closer to the Chinese firms," he said.

The body has a website and magazine where Filipino firms could advertise their intent to do business in China, he added

China has been sucking in foreign investments from around the world due to its huge market of one billion people, and generous incentives such as cheap labor and electricity prices, low taxes and policy to encourage foreign investments.

This beeime of investments toward China leaves very few dollars for the rest of the region, including the Philippines.

But rather than trying to reverse the trend, Figaro CEO Pacita Juan said that the growth of China could be turned into a golden opportunity for Filipino firms, given the right investment and the right partner in China

The government is doing its part through the International Trade group of the Department of Trade and Industry under Undersecretary Thomas Aquino and the consulate in China of the Department of Foreign Affairs represented by Jorge Judan

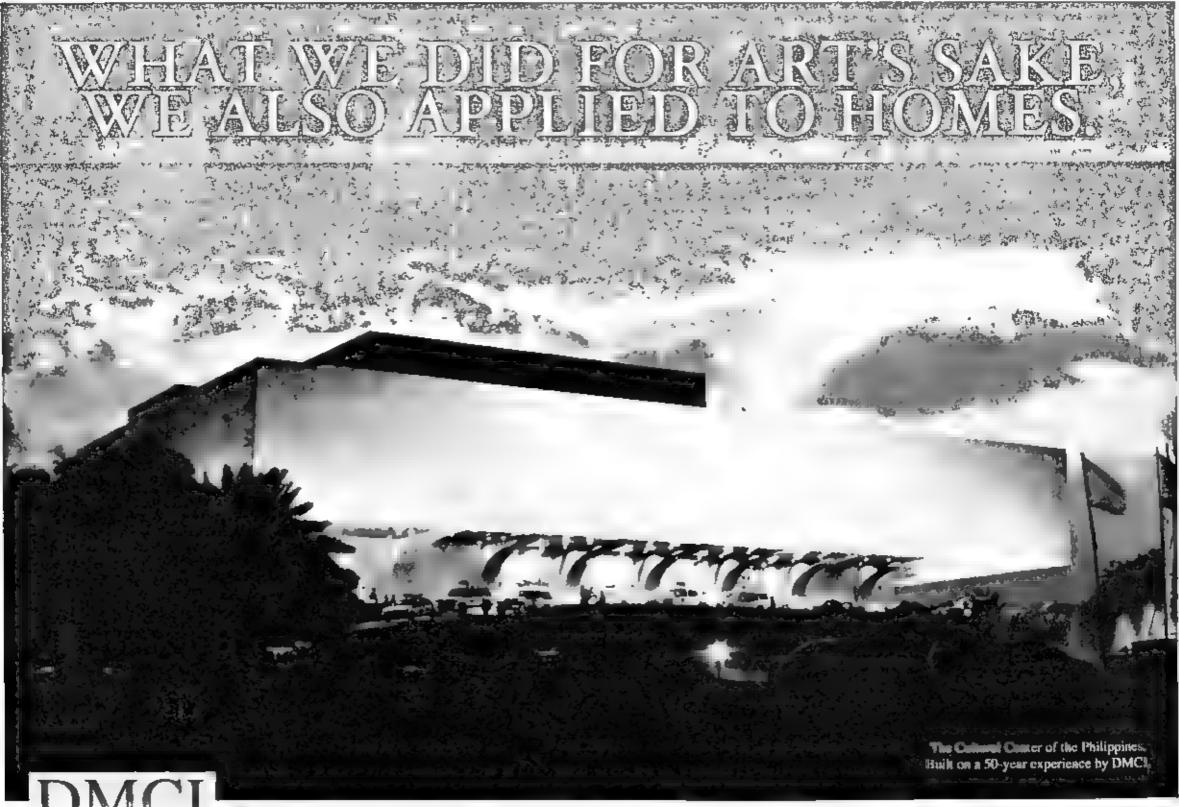
Juan said that aside from direct investments in manufacturing facilities, there was profit to be made in the services sector, including the basic services such as a beauty saion and day care services

"There are about 900,000 expatriates awing in Shanghai. That is a huge market for services," she said

Juan estimated that local firms would require a minimum investment of \$140,000 to make that first profitable step into China

There are risks, as there are Filipino firms that have failed in their pursuit of the Chinese dream

But the potential returns make that



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Business*Monday*

Is image more important than knowledge

Credit Suisse names key hires CREDIT Suisse First Boston announced two key new sen or hires for its Philippine operations, reflecting its strong commitment to the

Simon R. Paterno, who will join CSFB as a managing director most recently held the post of president and CEO of the Development Bank of

Prior to that, he worked with JP Morgan for 18 years, where he was managing director and head, Philippine Investment Banking, from 1998 to

Chiqui A. Huang, who joins the firm as a director, previously worked with JP Morgan for 19 years. Throughout her career, she has worked primarily in investment banking and corporate finance in the Phil ppines

Joselito Sibayan, CSFB's country manager in the Phi ippines, will continue to work on exsting projects, while also assuming a new role as vice chair of Investment Banking. Philippines

In this role, he will focus on major transactions and senior clients in the Philippines, as well as other key parts of the region.

Eric Varvel, CSFB's head of investment Banking for Asia Pacific ex-Japan, said "With these key bires, CSFB is significantly increasing its profile in the Philippines. We are optimistic about the country's prospects and want to manifest our long-term commit-

CSFB was awarded Best M&A House in the Phillippines by Euromoney Magazine last year and best foreign investment bank in the Philippines by FinanceAsia in 2003

CSFB is a leading global investment bank serving institutional, corporate, government and individual clients. CSFB's bus nesses include securities underwriting, sales and trading, investment banking, private equity, financia: advisory services, investment research. venture capital, correspondent brokerage services and asset management. CSFB operates In 68 locations in 33 countries across five

t is a business unit of the Zurich-based Credit Suisse Group, a leading global financial services company

eTelecare appoints senior executives

eTELECARE International Inc., the largest Asia-based call center company, recently announced the appointment of Dean Bindless as director for training and quality and Mark Fuentes as senior operations manager for eTelecare's sales business unit, both of whom are based in Mani a.

Dean Bindless joined eTelecare fresh from a two-year stint as HR director of TeleTech

Prior to this, he worked for five years in various management and specialist roles at TeleTech Internationa Australia.

He also had two years' experience at leading Australian telecom carrier Telstra Corp., handling customer service and training func-

A consummate HR professional with extensive learning and development experience Bindless earned his Bachelor of Education degree at the Victoria University of Technology and his MA in Education at RMIT, both

Mark Fuentes is a sales veteran in the telecommunications industry, with extensive sales management experience and record achievements at leading telecom companies in the Philippines

Fuentes earned his AS Management Economics degree in 1990 from the Aleneo de Manila University

With these senior executive appointments, eTelecare continues to reinforce its management. team to help effectively address the company's ongoing intensive expansion efforts, particularly with the opening of a new call center in Cebu within this year

Araullo, Barretto .lead Real Bank

JOSE G. Araulio and Alfredo Barretto were ap-- pointed chair and president, respectively, of Reaf

Araulio, one of the founders behind the third rargest auditing firm in the country, Punong-· bayan and Araullo, is an expert in banking and

Araulio also held top management positions in his 14-year stint with the country's largest com-- mercial bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., where he was a senior vice president and comptroiler

He also served as director of Philippine National Bank, among others

When asked why he accepted the responsibility to lead Real Bank Inc., Araulio said with confidence, "I never back out from a challenge especially if I know the terrain well. I have al-· ready succeeded in doing this before with another bank and I know that I can do it again and

Barretto is another banking veteran. He has * more than four decades of solid professional exi perience as a banker.

From 1963-1975, he worked as assistant vice president of Traders Royal Bank, From there, he moved to Philippine Savings Bank as executive vice president and director from 1976 to 2002

When asked why he decided to leave PSB after 27 long years of service, Barretto said: "I have known Araulio for a long time and I know his strengths and capabilities. I have no doubt in my m nd that he is a very determined man. We worked together before and I can honestly say that we were instrumental in putting that company in a better position. I know we can also achieve that for Real Bank."

Real Bank has 24 branches nationwide. It is slowly expanding its branch network to reach out to more Filipino families and com-

Q: IS image more important than knowledge? I was just recently passed over for a promotion. Although the reason given to me was that the person they promoted was better suited for the job, most of my close friends at the office say it is because I do not present myself as professionally as my other officemate who got the promotion. I know I have the skills and knowledge for the position she got and I am more senior than her. Isn't it unfair that she got the job and I didn't simply because she dresses better and fixes herself more than I do?

A: No, image is not more important than knowledge and job skills. However, image sets you apart and creates a very important impression which is crucial in business. Some companies, parneularly in the US, job interviews for high level positions are conducted over lunch or dinner. This is done in order to test the applicant's etiquette skills. As the business environment gets more and more competitive, you will find an

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

increasing number of possible upper management personnel that relatively have similar skills, educational background and experience.

What sets one apart from the other is the way they present themselves and the way they conduct themselves. Thus when a choice has to be made between two applicants with similar skills, the obvious choice would be the one who looks and acts more professional than

Skills, knowledge, education and experience get you the interview, what gets you hired is the way you present yourself to your superiors, colleagues and clients. If you feel you would like to improve your image and your business eriquette skills, then take active steps

towards doing so. This may help you to get started:

Employers have revealed the following professional attributes as most widely sought after by decision makers:

Self-esteem. If you don't beheve in yourself, how can your employer expect you to do a good job in representing a company? Give yourself credit for your strengths and work on your weaknesses!

Communication skills. Be convincing, be eloquent in your speech and be a good communicator. Asking questions and listening to the person answering -them is an important part of communi-

Speaking skills. One of the greatest fears of people is speaking in front of a group. When speaking or making a presentation to groups of 30 or 300, be prepared, be confident and be yourself! Take a class on presentation skills if you

Writing skills. Whether you are speaking to someone or corresponding with the person, the first 12 words you

use should include a form of thanks. Give your writing style a conversational tone. Limit sentences to 10-12 words. Your cover letter and resumé should be held to one page. Avoid being too wordy or using big words to impress. Business writing is straight-forward and unambiguous.

Giggling. Many people laugh to fill silent moments, rather then merely pausing. This is a distracting and unprofessional habit,

Hand gestures. Your hands should be used to enhance what you are saying rather than to detract from what is being said. Tests have shown that hands above-board (visible) rather than in pockets project a more positive image. The only legitimate form of touch in business is the handshake. A pat, nuage or touch of the arm can be perceived as being too friendly.

Please email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be



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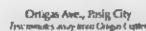






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Editor Aries Espinosa

US FDA approves Pfizer drug to lower heart attack risk

tion has recently approved Pfizer's cholesterol lowering therapy Atorvastatin Calcium for the prevention of cardiovascular disease by reducing heart attack risk in people with normal to mildly elevated cholesterol levels who have other cardiovascular risk factors.

The FDA's decision was based on the findings of the landmark Ascot trial (Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial), which found that the lowest dose of Atorvastatin (10 mg) reduced the relative risk of heart attack by 36 percent compared to placebo. Because these significant benefits were seen so early, the trial was ended nearly two years ahead of schedule.

"No other hpid-lowering agent has shown an effect as dramatic as Atorvastatin in terms of reducing cardiovascular disease and in offering this significant health benefit as fast as Atorvastatin," said Dr. Joseph Feczko, Pfizer's president of worldwide development. "Atorvastatin clearly is different in its early ability to reduce heart attacks among a very broad population of patients, regardless of cholesterol levels."

Another Atorvastatin study also ended two years ahead of schedule and also demonstrated its early cardiovascular benefits to patients. The CARDS study (Collaborative Atorvastatin Diabetes Study), the largest study ever designed to evaluate a statin in diabetics, showed that patients with diabetes who took Atorvastatin had 48 percent fewer strokes than those who received placebo. In addition, Atorvastatin-treated patients had significantly fewer fatal and non-fatal heart attacks and required fewer surgical procedures.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and currently the seventh leading cause of morbidity in the Philippines. Most people with elevated cholesterol, a leading risk factor for heart attacks, are either not diagnosed or have not

medication. People are suffering heart attacks and dying unnecessarily," Feczko said.

With Atorvastatin, we have a medicine that can significantly reduce cardiovascular disease for milhons of patients."

Atorvastatin also is the first cholesterol-lowering agent to demonstrate superior cardiovascular benefits when compared to another statin in two separate studies. In the Reversal study, Atorvastatin halted the progression of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, while the other statin merely slowed progression. Pfizer has either submitted these additional studies to the FDA or plans to do so shortly for inclusion in the product's prescribing information.

in the PROVE-IT study, patients taking Atorvastatin had a significantly lower cardiovascular events rate than patients taking a different statin. PROVE IT was conducted by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.

"It's becoming increasingly clear that Atorvastatin provides cardiovascular benefits beyond simply lowering LDL cholesterol," Feczko said. "Lowering LDL levels with statin therapy has been shown to reduce death and disability, but based on recent studies, we now know that Atorvastatin provides earlier and greater benefits than lowering LDL alone."

With starting doses of 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, or 80 mg, 96 percent of patients taking Atorvastatin reach their target LDL goal level. Updated guidelines recently issued by the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) confirm the added benefit of prescribing cholesteroi-lowering medication like Azorvastatin, along with diet modification and exercise, to patients at risk for cardiovascular disease. The NCEP panel cited the Ascot trial as one of the landmark studies instrumental in concluding the revision of the guidelines. Department of Health statistics

THE US Food and Drug Administra- reached their target LDL levels with show that CVD accounts for 74 deaths per 100,000 population. The most common risk factors for developing high cholesterol include age (over 55), family history, lack of exercise, obesity, smoking, diabetes and eth-

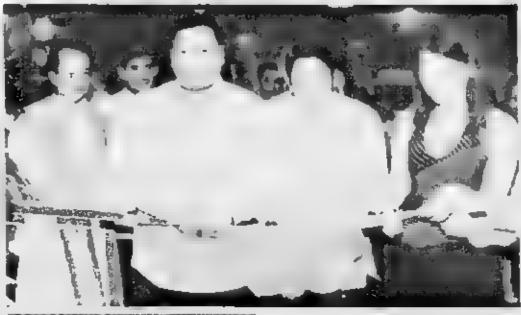
> Atorvastatin is the leading cholesterol-lowering therapy in the world with more than 76 million patient years of experience. Since its introduction seven years ago, its safety and effectiveness have been supported through the Atorvastatin Landmark Program, an extensive clinical program with more than 400 ongoing and completed trials involving more than 80,000 papents.

Arorvastatin calcium is a prescription medicine used with diet to lower cholesterol. Patients are advised to seek medical advice before taking any prescription medicine. Notably, Atorvastatin is not for everyone, including those with liver disease or possible liver problems, women who are nursing, pregnant, or may become preg-

Patients who take Atorvastatin should tell their doctor about any unusual muscle pain or weakness, as this could be a sign of serious side effects. Patients should also inform their doctor about any medications they are currently taking to avoid possible serious drug interactions.

Prescribing physicians may do simple blood tests to monitor liver function before and during medicine treatment. The most commonly reported side effects, which are usually mild and tend to go away, are gas, constipation, stomach pain and indi-

Pfizer is a global, research-based healthcare company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the world's best-known consumer products. This year, on its 50th anniversary in the Philippines, Pfizer reaffirms its commitment to making Filipino lives healthier, longer and happier.



LUTIVEIST FREMANCEMENTALISM

flatianni's Restaurant recently opened its newest branch at the Connecticut Carpark Building, the new covered parking structure linked to Greenhills' main shopping complex. Guests can expect the same hefty servings of delicious Italian-American dishes. friendly service and warm amblance that Italianni's is famous for. Shown during the opening rites are (from left) San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Bistro Group of Restaurants' corporate secretary tawver Pable de Borja and Italianni's Greenhills investor Debbie Chong. Also shown are (at the back, from

left) Fr. Jose Silva and San Juan Vice Mayor Boy Celles. The recent launching brought together food lovers, the media and special guests who leasted on Italianni's great selection of pizza, salad, pasta, seafood, meat dishes and desserts served with an Italian flair. Italianni's director for operations Jean. Paul Manuad and GM Sam Rouze made sure that tables were laden with food and everyone had a great time. Italianni's Greenhills is open Mondays to Sundays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call Rouze at 0916-2449136 for inquiries and reservations.

UNOCAL REAFFIRMS LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

Unocal chair Charles R. Williamson greets President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during his courtesy visit in Malacañang Palace. Williamson was in Manila to reaffirm Unocal's long-term commitment to the Philippine energy sector. The meeting was attended by DOE Secretary Vincent S. Perez. Jr as well as PSALM, NPC and other Unocal officials. Williamson announced that a Unocarried consortium will shortly begin drilling two petroleum exploration wells in the Sulu Sea under a service contract with the DOE. Perez cited Unocal's strong international reputation as a leading. energy developer with over 50 percent of its assets in Asia and over 40 years of partnership with host countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. In partnership with NPC, Unocal ploneered the development of the geothermal industry in the Philippines through its subsidiary, Philippine Geothermal Inc (PGI). Williamson also expressed interest in evaluating the opportunity



to participate in the privatization of NPC's Tiwi and Mak-Ban geothermal power plants as provid-

Acer offers new projectors for home, office

ACER, one of the world's leading computer Contrast Ratio; 1,500 Ansl Lumens and brands, introduces its new projector models weighs only 1.7kg. Aside from being targeted for home entertainment and office lightweight, it also has a Picture-In-Picture use. The introduction of these new models re- (PIP) feature, a powerful remote control inforces Acer's good brand image in the IT industry as well as hitting the objective of addressing various market segment with the product's multiple configuration.

Aiming for the budget-conscious market, Acer offers its PL111 and PD112 models. Acer PL111 is a multimedia solution projector that boasts of an LCD Projection System; SV-GA (800x600); SXGA (1280x1024) 500:1 Contrast Ratio; 1,300 Ansi Lumens and weighs 3kg while Acer PD112, a projector that both functions well in the boardroom or living room features a DLP Projector System; SVGA 800x600, SXGA (1280x1024); 2000:1 Contrast Ratio; 1,300 Ansi Lumen and weighs 2.2kg. It has a versatile display mode for business presentation and home enter-

For users who prefer portability before anything else, the brand offers the 1kg Acer PD321, a DLP Projection System, with the following specifications: 800x600 XGA; SX-GA (1280x1024); 2000:1 Contrast Ratio, 1,100 Ansi Lumens. Lightweight, the Acer PD321 is especially suitable for a salesperson, with a Picture-In-Picture (PIP) feature that allows showing two visuals simultaneously as well as showing the user's customized information in the start-up screen

The brand also offers mid-range projectors equipped with DLP technology, the Acet PD250. Ideal for on-the-go performance in a variety of settings, the Acer PD250 has a 1024x768 XGA; 1280x1024 SXGA; 1800 1

with mouse, Page Up, Page Down and laser pointer function, not to forget its Digital Input (DVI) that provides sharp images for that high-caliber projection.

For those who prefer a high-performance conference room projector, Acer PD721 fits the bill. Suitable for large convention room use with its ultra bright images, it is also equipped with the DLP Projection System with ultra bright 2300 Ansi with excellent contrast as well as the following surefire specifications: 1024x768 XGA; 1280x1024 SXGA; 2000:1 Contrast Ratio; 2:300 Ansi Lumens and weight 3kg. Likewise, it also has the Picture-In-Picture (PIP) feature, remote control with mouse, laser pointer function and an easy to switch feature between various audio/video pair multimedia input.

Moreover, the new Acer projectors boasts of the following features: ultra bright, high contrast ratio; lightweight, offers multi-input function that it can be connected to your PC, DVD or Game Box equipments; the new Acer projectors has short-throw ratio and is guaranteed low-noise. It is equipped with digital keystone correction, provides HDTV support with 4:3/16:9 aspect ratio, front/rear/upended projection, long life lamp and a feature-rich remote control for ease of use and utmost comfort.

The new, top-of-the-line Acer projectors offer two years local limited warranty, with 90 days or 500 hours warranty for the lamp, whichever come first.



TOYEM EXEMPLIFIES MARIKINA YOUTH

The presbgious Ten Outstanding Young Employees of Marikina (Toyern) awards concluded this year's search with the selection of 10 exemplary youths in the workplace. The 'Gabi ng Parangal' of Toyem 2004 was held at the Skyline Riverbend Hotel and Convention Center in Marikona. Rep. Dei de Guzman delivered the keynote speech, and lauded the unique contributions of Toyem awards to the community. Toyern is a project of MIMA Media Inc. and supported by Brst Quadrant Philippines Inc; Medic One Step Pregnancy Test Tensoval Blood Pressure Monkor, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Claudine Baretto's Solution Fragrances by First Quadrant; Viva Entertainment Company, Purelouds Beefies Hotdogs, Calypso Color Corp; David's Salon; Joey 92.3 Rhythms; DZAR Angel

Radyo; Cafe Puro by Comfoods; Skinwhite by Splash Corp; Refresh Mineral Water by Universal Robina Corp; RNG Studio; Riverbanks Center, Tanduay Distillers; and Almon Whitening Soap by First Quadrant. The Ten Outstanding Employees of Marikina 2004 are, from left: Arsenio Galero of STI College (Concepcion-Marikina), Raigh Espinosa of Marikina City Development Authority, Julie Ann Joven of Roosevelt College, Glenda Trinidad of Tañong High School, Rose Ann Mendoza of ACA Video, Karen May Angus of Philippine Footwear Federation, Moraya Padua of Moriah Baptist Bible Church, Ma. Victoria Peñallor of Cottage Industry Technology Center Ritchel Uy of Landbank Marikina, and Carle Antonio Soto of Pureloods-Hormel.



BPI BOWS EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The BPI Foundation, the social development arm of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, recently launched 'I-Volunteer', the bank's employee volunteer program. Among others, the program aims to initiate and promote volunteer projects for the professional development and social involvement of BPI emproyees, as well as to assist and participate in the efforts of volunteer agencies and organizations for basic social services. The employee volunteer program is a lestament that BPI is not only about innovative products and services, but also about giving

back to the community it has served for the past 152 years. The project is a realfirmation of BPI's commitment to uplift the social and spiritual well being of the community. The 8Pt Foundation has instituted programs covering education, micro-enterprise development, basic services and value enhancement. The BPI Foundation is now marking its 25th anniversary. Shown during the event are (from left) BPI manager My Almogino, BPI SVP Jess Razon, BPI VP and BPI executive director Roral Tapia-Merk and BPI SVP Carrie Ibarra joined by BPI employee volunteers.

Citibank Clear Visa Mini's 20% off shopping treat

AN EXCITING round of freebies await all who apply for a Citibank Clear Card Visa Mini. Grab an application form today and get an instant treat-a discount voucher that entitles you to 20 percent off on one-time purchase at any Fino leatherware branch. Clip and present the discount coupon when making your purchase to get the 20-percent discount. which can be redeemed up to Oct 31. The Pino discount is

just your welcome treat to an exciting round of freebies you can further get with the Citibank Clear Card Visa Min. All applications approved from May 20 to Aug. 31 will also entithe cardholders to the Free Times 3 promo including walved first year membership less, a Fino leatherware card case. with keychain for your new Visa Mini Card, and a Citibank sports bag.

roduct FILES

Ajinomoto captures Pinoy taste anew

AJINOMOTO Philippines Corp (APC) has been operating in the Philippines for over 40 years. In this span of time it has studied and learned the culture and culinary habits of Pilipinos. Hence, APC has come up with a variety of choices not only in seasonings but also in food and beverage products. Its latest product offering that is quickly becoming a hit among Filipmo families is the all-new Crispy Fry Breading Mix

Crispy Fry enables mothers to give their families the taste of fastfood fried chicken in the comfort of their homes. With Crispy Fry. every piece of chicken is coated with scrumptious flavor and golden enspiness. Complete with spices and seasonings, no more time is wasted on marinating and experimenting. One can even choose to enjoy such crispiness in two variants, spicy or regular flavor



planners set

BUSINESS*Monday*

Venue for party There's more to this shop than donuts

By Amy R. Remo

PARTY planners, suppliers, children's clothes, toys and accessories makers, get a chance to show-off their ware at a mall venue with the Baby Magazine 3rd National Baby Congress on Oct. 2 to 3, 2004 at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

The weekend event is expected to draw thousands of shoppers in the A, B, and upper C markets-the profile of the Shangri-la Mall's chents.

The Congress is open to the public and will have free talks on parenting and childcare, a Search for Cover Baby, raffles, give-aways, product samplings, kiddle shows, a fashlon show and more. For more info, call 893-0534 or 840-1897.

The Congress is an ideal venue for entrepreneurs involved in the party planning business or makers of bables and children's needs as the expected participants will be

The organizer, Rita Neri of The Wedding Store, also made participation by interested exhibitors feasible with lower fees compared with those charged by events in malls.

The Baby Congress is a continuation of the very successful Baby Magazine 2nd National Baby Congress held last 2002.

Sponsors for this year's event include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Gingersnaps, Metrobank, Canon, Sun Village Resort, Marathon Publishing Co.

Girl from ...

From page B2-8

modifying Western technology and making it better, so was Lorna with stuffed toys. This resulted in a market base that burgeoned and a product offering that diversified to include kitchen and bedroom coordinates and educational toys. But along with having big established exporters among her customers came harassment from her competitors. Like the bad wolf that wanted to devour little Red Riding Hood and the wicked stepsisters who made Cinderella's life miserable, the competitors tried to pull her down. But Lorna took all the negative gossip in strade and kept the competition at bay.

This can only happen to people who have arrived, she philosophized. And Lorna has indeed arrived. LOKAL Industries was getting monthly orders ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 pieces. Traders began approaching the Kalaws to apply as agents. The latter brought the company's products to markets that would have otherwise been difficult to enter.

The "new" partner

Ronnie eventually quit his job at PLDT to help out Lorna with LOKAL. His stint took all of two months. Even with Ronnie around, the business could not sustain a growing family, prompting Ronnie to go back to employment. After five grueling months as production manager of a woodworking firm, he decided to call it quits.

The timing couldn't be any better. By this time, LOKAL's growth was more than what Lorna could cope with alone. She needed an extra hand-one she could fully trust. This time, the couple committed to join strengths and talents to further expand the business and make it a more stable source of income

The couple's best intentions were not enough to realize the things they planned. Both have very strong personalities. The first few years as business partners were marked by conflicts and shouting matches. Ronnie was strict, methodical and businesslike. On the other hand, it wasn't like Lorna to easily give in. After all, she has successfully parlayed the fledgling business by herself. The twin pressures of raising a family and trying to make a business grow were slowly bringing the couple down. In time the couple realized that the friction was not doing the business, the family, the children and, most importantly, their own relationship any better. As Ronme so aptly put it, "At the end of the day we are still the loving couple."

LOKAL today

After almost 16 years of operating and doing business from one rented place to another, LOKAL Industries moved to its permanent area early this year. And four years ago, LOKAL opened its retail arm, Angel's Touch Marketing in Malabon, right where they started. Three years later, its second branch opened in Batangas City.

The story of Lorna and Ronnie Kalaw clearly illustrates what an entrepreneur is made of. Entrepreneurship certainly is not for the faint of heart. It is a commitment that involves putting at stake the things one holds dear, and this can include one's life in some cases. The shared sacrifices and pain that the couple and their children underwent in the name of the family and the business have made their suc-

cess taste even sweeter Today, there is no stopping LOKAL industries from reaching greater heights since the Kalaw family has truly bonded together. Is the success of LOKAL a consequence of raising a happy family or is it the other way around? It may not matter any longer whether success or happiness is a precedent or a consequence. The couple is content with having a happy

family and a growing business. Watch out for "Couples Who Dream, Do, and Take Risks" soon to be published by the U.P Institute for Smalt-Scale Industries and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation. For inquirles, please call Tel 928-7076 to 79 or email info.issi@up.edu.ph

DESPITE facing stiff competition from other donut stores, Country Style Bakery Del: & Café feels confident it would not lose its throng of loyal customers.

"We offer customers not just coffee and donuts but also an alternative-a healthier dining option," says Country Style marketing manager Genaline G.

Austero explains that aside from donuts and coffee, Country Style also offers its customers a range of bakery, deli and café goodies from sandwiches, pastas, soups, bagels, omelette, croissants, turnovers to mulfins. It also serves hot and cold beverages, as well

"We are often mistaken simply as one of the donut stores. But we're actually not," says Austero. "Country Style is a donut store, bakery, deli and café, all rolled into one."

Thus, Austero adds, these donut stores cannot be considered Country Style's sole and direct competitors. That is why, Country Style does not feel threatened

Country Style started its operations in the country in 1997, a year after Megalicious Food Corp. acquired the master franchise of Country Style Canada to develop and operate its stores in the country. It opened its first full-line store at Metropolis in Alabang, Muntinlupa

Austero says that initially, the biggest challenge Country Style had to tackle was getting a share of the donut market, which was then dominated by two tions. major donut stores.

Introducing deli products to the Philippine market proved to be a difficulty as well.

According to Austero, what Country Style did was to first of all, offer its products at very affordable prices, either similar or cheaper than its com-

'We give customers good value for their money-they get freshly-baked products, fast and friendly service, and comfortable ambiance," says Aus-

While its competitors have been aggressive in advertising and sponsorships, Country Style, on the other hand, has been investing very heavily on product development.

We offer customers a wider food selection through regular and continuous product research and development," says Austero.



COUNTRY Style offers its customers more than just donuts, but a healthier dining option as well.

This is evident in the number of products Country Style has introduced in its stores year after year.

For donuts alone, it offers more than 100 varieties and flavors.

Made from specially formulated ingredients developed exclusively for Country Style, the dough and pre-mixes used for the donuts have to be imported from Canada

Country Style has also brought in the country several product innova-

For instance, Country Style has the triple choco boom, the first chocolate yeast-raised donut in the

It also has the old fashioned sour cream and french cruller donuts and seasonal products such as merry paps, which is a mini donut cake on stick coated with colored chocolate; and Christmas bits, which are mini donut holes with cream filling also coated with chocolate.

Country Style offers monthly and year-round promos as well.

Austero says they usually highlight a particular product every month, which they call "daily specials."

"We do this to introduce and emphasize a new, a less popular or a more pricey product," says Austero.

She explains that a customer, who usually orders donuts and coffee might be enticed to buy a bagel-and-coffee

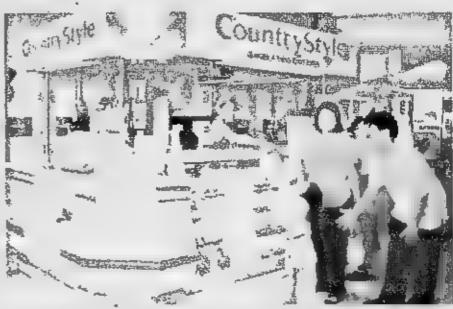
Aside from that, Country Style had undergone several other changes in the past seven years to suit the Philippine

One was the addition of spaghetti, an old favorite among Fil.pinos. Another is the use of a more contemporary store design, which is more colorful and vibrant than its stores in

Country Style has also created several types of stores to adapt to the needs of different locations and market, unlike its Canadian counterpart, whose store size is usually around 100 sq.m. or

It has a full-line store or a standalone store, which serves all Country Style products, an express take out counter, which are usually found in food courts; kiosks, which serves donuts, beverages and a few bakery products and a cart, which serves only donuts and beverages.

In 2000, Country Style started offering its franchise program worth be-



COUNTRY Style has around 40 stores in Metro Manila and plans to put up stores in the provinces by the end of the year.

daily special, which is offered cheaper than its regular price.

When the customer orders the bagel and finds it to be good, he would most owned. likely buy it the next time even if the promo has ended.

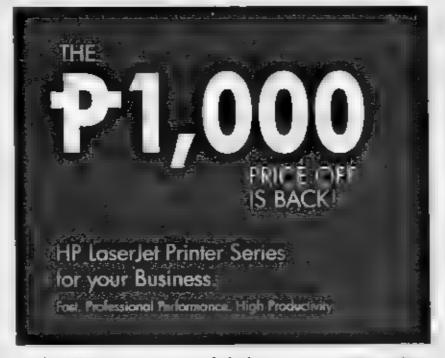
In this way, Country Style is able to create a following for its various prod-

Austero adds that Country Style strictly adheres to its QSCV policy-quality, service, cleanliness and

tween P400,000 and P1 million. To date, 50 percent of its stores are franchises, while the rest are company-

Country Style now has around 40 stores in Metro Manila, 12 of which are full-line, stand alone stores.

Austero says Country Style is planning to build 20 more stores by end 2004. It also plans to make its presence felt in the provinces, with Cebu as its



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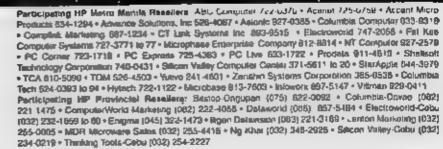
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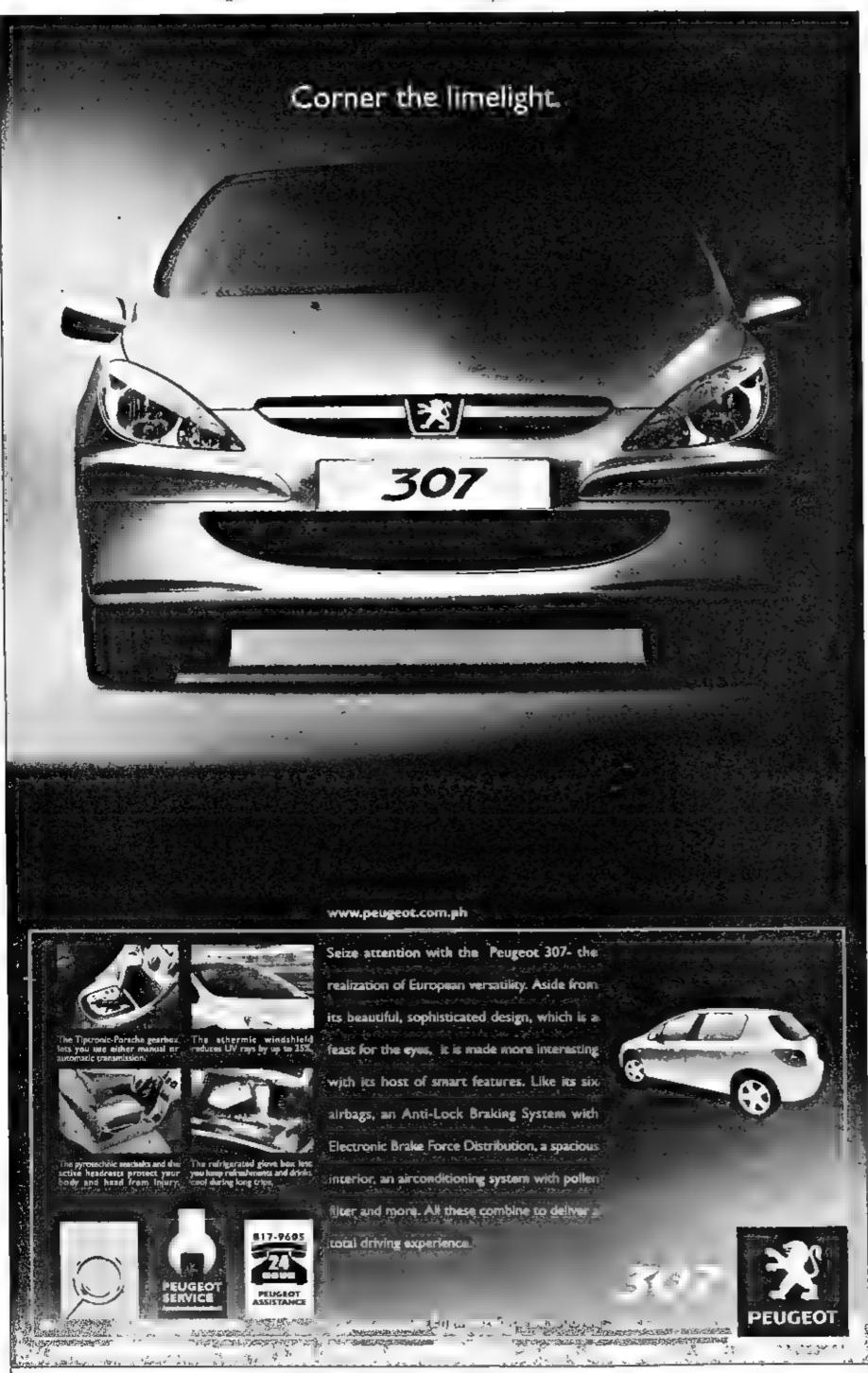
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Girl from a dress shop ventures into toys with prince



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By A) Esquerra Contributor

LORNA and Ronnie Kalaw's residence used to be a messy and claustrophobic studio type apartment—a far cry from the multi-million, three-story house they and their children now call home. It wasn't a fairy wand that wielded the magic. How the Kalaws prospered was rather a story of commitment, risk-taking, creativity and hardwork.

Before the business

The second in a family of seven children, Lorna Kalaw remembers herself as a bright and cheerful little girl who grew up in the care of her maternal grandmother. When she turned 10, her playground was her grandmother's baby dress shop. As she grew up, she started doing some odd tasks (to her it was merely child's pray) like trimming the dresses. Naturally curious, she would also examine how the machines worked, how the workers performed their jobs, and everything in between. She didn't know it then but these activities were a portent of things to come.

More than one and a half decades later, after getting an economics degree, trying her hand as operations manager in an employment agency, marrying her prince charming, and nursing a month-old baby girl, Lorna found herself reprising this rose. She was again cutting fabrics, this time for her mother's baby dress business. Used to keeping a tight schedule as she juggled her time between work and her law studies, Lorna fell easy prey to boredom.

So much for fairy tales, her story doesn't just end with "they lived happily ever after."

Small beginnings

She worked in what the couple considers as their first home—a 12-square meter bedroom that was part of her in laws' residence. To her, this was not much of a chore, neither was it a passing fancy. In fact, it nurtured the entrepreneurial genes tikely passed on to her by grandmother and mother.

A formal training on stuffed toy making was the coup de grace so to say. Seeing the potential of stuffed toys Lorna was determined as ever to set up her own stuffed toy-making business. Not even the economic crisis that loomed over the region could make her reconsider her decision.

Against all odds she took the first bold step to realizing her dream, she sold two of her most beloved jewelry for a shot at stuffed toy fame. The P50,000 allowed her to move out and rent a two-story apartment in Tinajeros, Malabon. With some initial materials, one sewer, five used sewing machines borrowed from her mom, and sheer determination, LOKAL industries was born and registered on the same year, 1988.

Early setbacks

A botched attempt by hubby Ronnie's effort to sell her stuffed toys at PLDT where he worked and her first-ever volume contract that went awry did not dampen Lorna's unrelenting pursuit of the dream to be her own boss. The latter experience proved to be her initiation into the unpredictable world of business. She learned the value of sticking to customer specifications even if she had to borrow money. For this she was rewarded with a fruitful six year relationship with the customer.

Wolves and wicked stepsisters

Lorna is not one to be complacent of her early success. The years that followed had her honing her marketing skills and concentrating on innovation. If Japan was successful in



RONNIE and Lorna Kalaw, partners in love, partners in business

Tastes great. Demand on the rise.



Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta LIFEMULE

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS . TUESDAY FITNESS . WEDNESDAY 2BU . THURSD

Madrid's haven of Filipino past

HAD written an earlier article on the Legazpi exhibit at the National Museum. What I found remarkable in that exhibit were the exquisite examples of craftwork. Sadly, many of the crafts represented are now dying or dead.

Noting that some of the items in the Legazpi show had been lent from the collection of the Museo Nacional de Antropologia in Madrid, I resolved to visit this museum. Fortunately, while on vacation in Spain, I ran into

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

Cookie Feria of the Philippine Embassy, a former classmate. (Now don't ask how long ago!) She very kindly made arrangements for my visit.

The Antropologia in Madrid houses works from different countries. Among its holdings

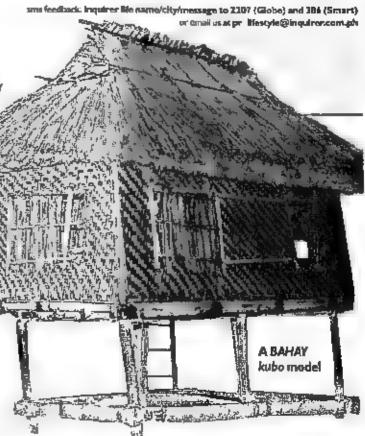
is an incredible set of objects that had originally been brought to Spain for an Exposition in 1887.

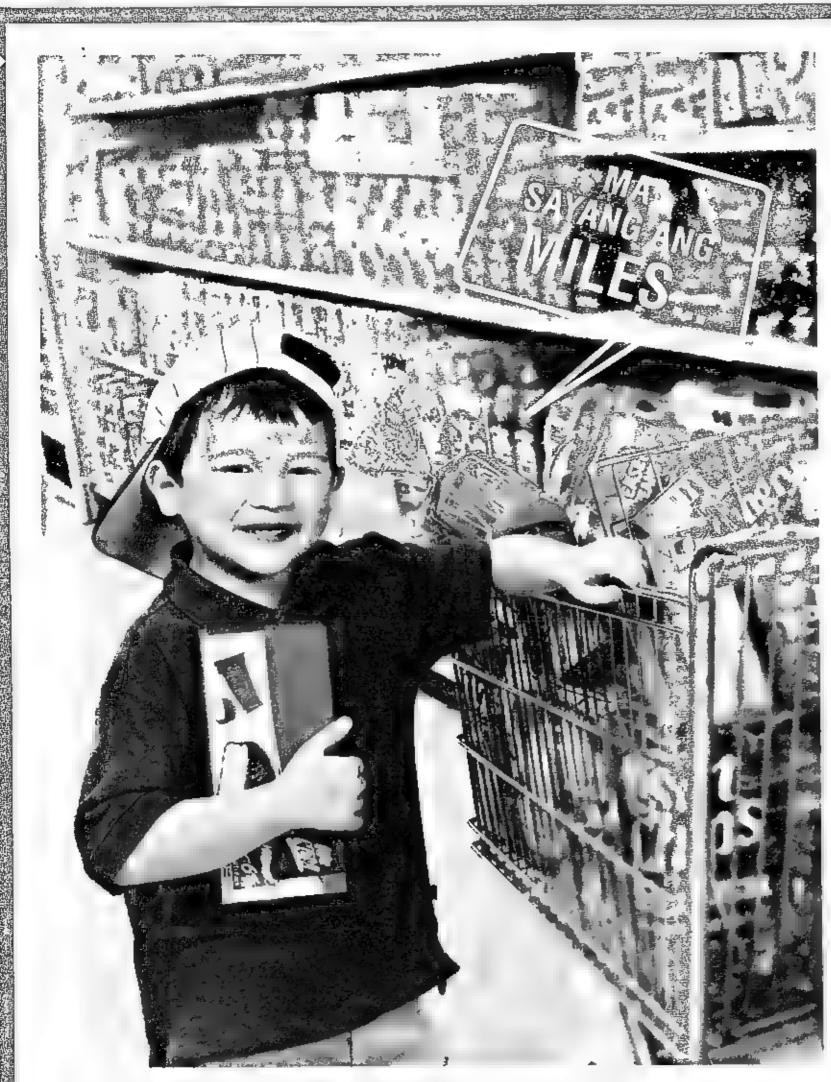
On a sad note, the Museo is located in front of the Atocha Station. This was the site of the bomb explosions some time back, Span's own tragic 9/11. The shattering blasts were definitely felt at the Museo on that fateful day.

Cookie and I (with daughter Paloma in tow) met with the museum's director, Pilar Romero de Tejada. This friendly woman is truly interested in the Philippines. She has

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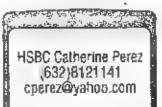
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LIFESTYLE

Madrid's haven of Filipino past

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written many articles on our country, her specialty being the Cordillera area. We had quite an animated conversation.

At one point, when she started talking about the importance of identity issues in Philippine society, I got quite excited. At last! Someone I could talk to.

When she went on to expound on the need to evolve a sense of cultural unity ansing from our diversities, I couldn't contain myself. I jumped up and hugged her! This prompted Paloma to hide under her chair.

Amazing

Pilar took us around to see the Philippine collection herself. What an amazing range of objects it was like a treasury from our pasti

There were pieces from the different regions of our country. There was an intricately carved shield from Mindanao, a lovely tea set made of coconut shells and edged with silver from the Visayas, and bulols from Northern



THE MUSEO'S façade

MY FAVORITE sculpture at the Museo (right); and close-up of the little boy's face (below)



Luzon. The level of craftsmanship was truly astounding.

There was even a machine used for cleaning rice. It had woven sides and wooden parts. It almost looked like a quaint piece of furniture.

The work that intrigued me the most was a piece titled "El Arraigo de Costumbres" by Ciriaco Gaudinex y Javier (1848-1910). It shows a young boy carrying an open coffin with the body of a little girl inside. It is such a heartbreaking sculpture. The face of the boy is covered with tears, and one can really feel his pain as he brings his tiny burden to her grave. One wonders what the relationship between the bearer and the deceased is. The girl's dress is quite elaborate, contrasting with the simplicity of the wooden coffin and the plain clothes of the boy.

Is the boy her brother? But why is he so much more simply attired? Of course, the girl could have been

arrayed in her best outfit in preparation for burial. Could the boy be a faithful servant who had come to love the young daughter of the family that he worked for?

Whatever it is, there is no ambiguity about



the anguished expression on the young boy's face. I was captivated by the talent of the

Talent is clearly evident in all the items in the museum. In fact, one cannot but be proud at what one encounters. And one cannot but feel sad that so much is no longer available or even forgotten.

Colonial reading

When I discussed the museum's display with a friend, he pointed out that the collection was actually what remained of the Spanish colonial masters' attempt to show-case the products of their subjects. In

case the products of their subjects. In a way, it was really an illustration of power and how such talented people were under Spanish control.

My friend also explained how Jose Rizal actually reacted quite negatively to the Exposition. It seems that our National Hero wasn't happy that certain Filipinos were actually put on display.

Of course, part of his dissatisfaction was the fact that he didn't think that the Filipinos who were on exhibit came from groups and wore

traditional costumes which he thought were not civilized.

My friend even went on to question why Filipino artworks such as the statue I described are

exhibited at a Museum of Anthropology. In contrast, the artworks from other European countries from the same period are exhibited in museums of art. This might suggest that our pieces were not considered artistic.

I prefer to look at the collection at the Antropologia, however, as another treasure house for our country. Among other things, it provides our cultural scholars and researchers a set of works they can use to date similar pieces in the Philippines. This allows us to really push back our art history.

Also, our designers can use the pieces as the bases for new products. I really wish some enterprising angel would produce again the coconut and silver tea set. Wouldn't that look great on the table at an important Philippine residence like Malacañang?

Most important of all, I see this collection as a source of inspiration. In a time of crisis like what we are experiencing, the pieces in Madrid should comfort us by reminding us how resilient and creative Filipinos were, and continue to be

We are so talented that we should have nothing to fear. With the infinite power of the arts behind us, we can face any obstacle.

E-mail comments to beartist@filipinashbrary.org.ph or write to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati

More heritage updates

ARMED by the construction of a fast-food outlet in the historic rotunda at the center of Carcar, Cebu province's premier heritage town, the Carcar Heritage Conservation Society appealed to the giant Philippine fastfood chain Joilibee to redesign the façade of its new store to harmonize with its heritage surroundings. Jollibee cooperated, agreeing to some changes in the store façade.

The issue of new construction threatening the homogeneity of heritage architecture that still survives in Carcar developed into a campaign for the town officials to enact protective legislation.

Rel Micame wrote in a recent issue of Cebu Sun-Star: "The Carcar Hentage Conservation Society should lobby with the Carcar Municipal Council for the enactment of an ordinance that will regulate the construction or reconstruction of buildings in the southern municipality. I believe Carcar municipal officials, from the mayor, vice mayor and down to the councilors, are receptive to the idea of preserving the cultural heritage of the town. If Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia (of Cebu province) can help convince the town officials to pass that heritage conservation ordinance, so much the better.

"The Carcar Municipal Government should not allow the destruction of some heritage buildings in the town, especially those locat-



STEPS and landings covered in geometric patterns rise to the upper floor of the Quezon Provincial Capitol.

JUN Palaton (right) with Harvard

University professor Rick Pleiser

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon 🏾

ed along the national highway. A buyer of an existing hentage structure should be required to preserve st."

Spanish colonial period stone bridges in Bohol province declared Important Cultural Properties. A major part of the existing road system in the Philippines is based on the network of roads and bridges built as early as the 17th century, during the Spanish colonial era, heritage that is totally unappreciated today.

As a testimony to their strength and endurance, some of the old stone bridges built from the 17th to the 18th centuries are still in use today.

A highway improvement program now endangers the historic network of Spanish colonial stone bridges still in use in Bohol.

Government engineers must on replacing the "outdated" stone bridges with their generic concrete highway bridges. In response to public outcry, the engineers suggested encasing the stone bridges in concrete, rather than demolishing them and forever burying them in concrete.

The National Museum of the Philippines has declared the heritage bridges as Important Cultural Properties because they are "artistic and engineering marvels which have stood time," and they are "extant examples of Spanish colonial expressions of unique and distinct architectural engineering designs, as in the pointed and barrel vault system of bridge construction."

Stone bridges in the towns of Dimiao and Lila in Bohol are now under custody of the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act (Presidential Decree 374) that prevents their demolition.

A new solution will have to be found by local government authorities that will allow highway construction to continue, while protecting the bridges.

Restoration of the Metropolitan Theater in Manila. Built in 1939 by the noted architect Juan Arellano, the Metropolitan Theater was the ultimate theater in Asia during its day, and a national center for Philippine performing arts.

The landmark building is a sturning example of the international architectural style Art Deco, but which was reinterpreted with archi-

tectural and decorative motifs adapted from Philippine sources.

A impantite endeavor will restore the decayed structure. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts has granted P50 million as restoration seed money.

Other stakeholders are the Government Service Insurance System, which foreclosed on the property, and the City of Manila, where the historic theater is located.

Today there is a government penchant for fast-track construction where speed, not quality of craftsmanship, is the priority. This must be a hangover from the Imeida Marcos days, when she insisted that new government buildings be constructed overnight.

Conservation, on the other hand, is a slow process. Before any construction can begin, full documentation and investigation of the structure is required.

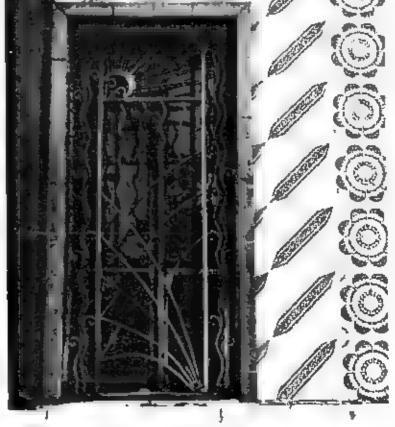
Construction cannot be rushed, either. The NCCA has correctly insisted that thorough study must be conducted before any construction can commence.

Could progress reports showing the results

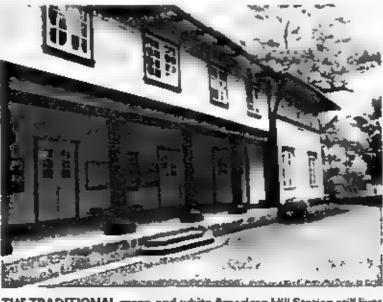
of the study be published so that the public (and fast-tracking government authorities) become more aware of the steps involved in the restoration process?

Quezon Province Capitol restoration.

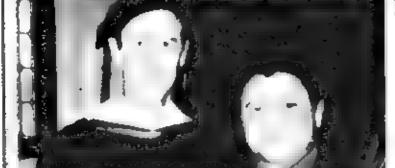
Quezon Province Capitol restoration. Gov. Wilfindo Enverga of Quezon Province has committed to restoring the Quezon Province Capitol. The structure, outstanding because it is one of the rare capitols in the Art Deco style, was designed by architect Juan Azellano in



EVEN if the
Metropolitan
Theater in Manila is
now in runs, its
exquisite filipino
detailing in the 1930s
Art Deco style still
stands out.



THE TRADITIONAL green-and-white American Hill Station still lives in the old wooden buildings at Brent School in Baguio.



Palafox presents Harvard paper

ARCHITECT and urban planner Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr., founder and managing partner of Palafox Associates, presented a paper titled "Manila Metropolis 2020, Manila Bay... Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region: Concept Plan 2020" to the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University as part of his graduate studies.

A big part of this plan's strategy is the development of urban development corridors and clustering growth centers like Subic and Clark and the opening of new gateways on the Pacific Ocean coastline. This will spur new in-

vestments in the region and redevelopment opportunities in the inner cities, creating jobs and economic opportunities, especially for the urban poor.

Palafox has also submitted his concept to President Arroyo as a potential way of fai-filling ber 10-point development plan. Palafox's plan aims to decongest Metro Manila, create jobs, and foster agropolitan development to spur urban agribusiness and eco-tourism in between the urban-development corridors.

the 1930s, during the American colonial era when the province was still known by its old name of Tayabas.

The governor signed a contract commissioning the Heritage Conservation Society consultancy team to provide professional conservation services for the project.

Baguio City Heritage Task Force, Congratulations to the Baguio City mayor for organizing a heritage task force after meeting with members of the HCS, who had pointed out the uniqueness of Baguio as the world's only American colonial hill station. The American architect Daniel Burnham designed the mountain city in 1905 as a summer capita, for colonial government officials to escape the tropical heat of Manila during the summer months.

The city government recognizes the unique history of Baguio and proposes to pass legislation that will protect local heritage sites still to be designated. The Burnham-designed road system, uself to be declared as local-heritage, will link most of the proposed local heritage sites.

Feedback

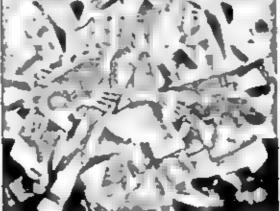
Concerned individuals e-mailed their responses to the column about heritage concerns last week. One wrote "...for the first time I am able to understand why replacing those wooden trusses [in the Laoag Cathedral] can actually do more harm if these are replaced with steel "

Another wrote: "I am 21 years old, from Cabanatuan City, I just read your article about [the restoration of] the Pangasinan Provincial Capitol Building, and I felt envious that there were enlightened people in that province who were able to concretize their ideas in a communitarian level."

He wrote that after the provincial government moved out of the Nueva Ecija Capitol, the heritage structure was converted into a computer school where "holes were punctured in the lagade for air-conditioning."

E-mail your feedback to afvillalan@hat

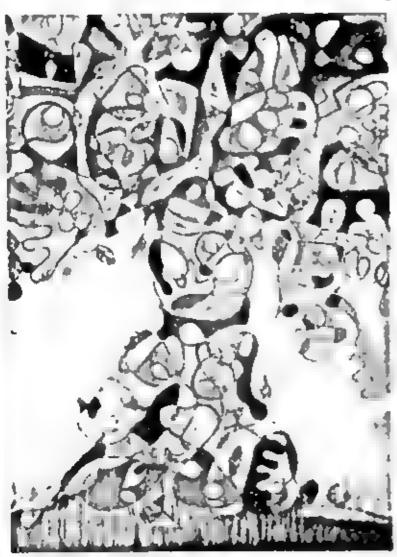






ERY Mixe's Jan Sy, Philhealth president Francis Duque, A director Robert Santos and Matrobank Foundation's Anna Schropolia

Artists toast Gallery Nine's fifth year



anniversary with "The Big Show" at the Art Center of Megamall until Sept. 15.

The show includes pieces by Cacnio, Arturo Luz and Ramon

Thomas Dequioeg has a pointing showing a flooded area by LRT buttresses, Ferdinand Doctolero tackies a boxing scene.

On exhibit is Orlina's champagne fountain of green glass leaves and grooved fruit orbs that stem from a spiraling branch of

GALLERY Nine celebrates its fifth terpiece during the wedding reception of Rep. Jules Ledesma and actress Assunta de Rossi.

Also on exhibit are works by emerging talents such as Yveese Pederico Aguilar Alcuaz, Angelsto Belen, Art Bermido, Romeo Antonio, Norma Belleza, Angel Forbes, Tres Roman, Bin Samonte, Christian Tamondong and a host of other new artists.

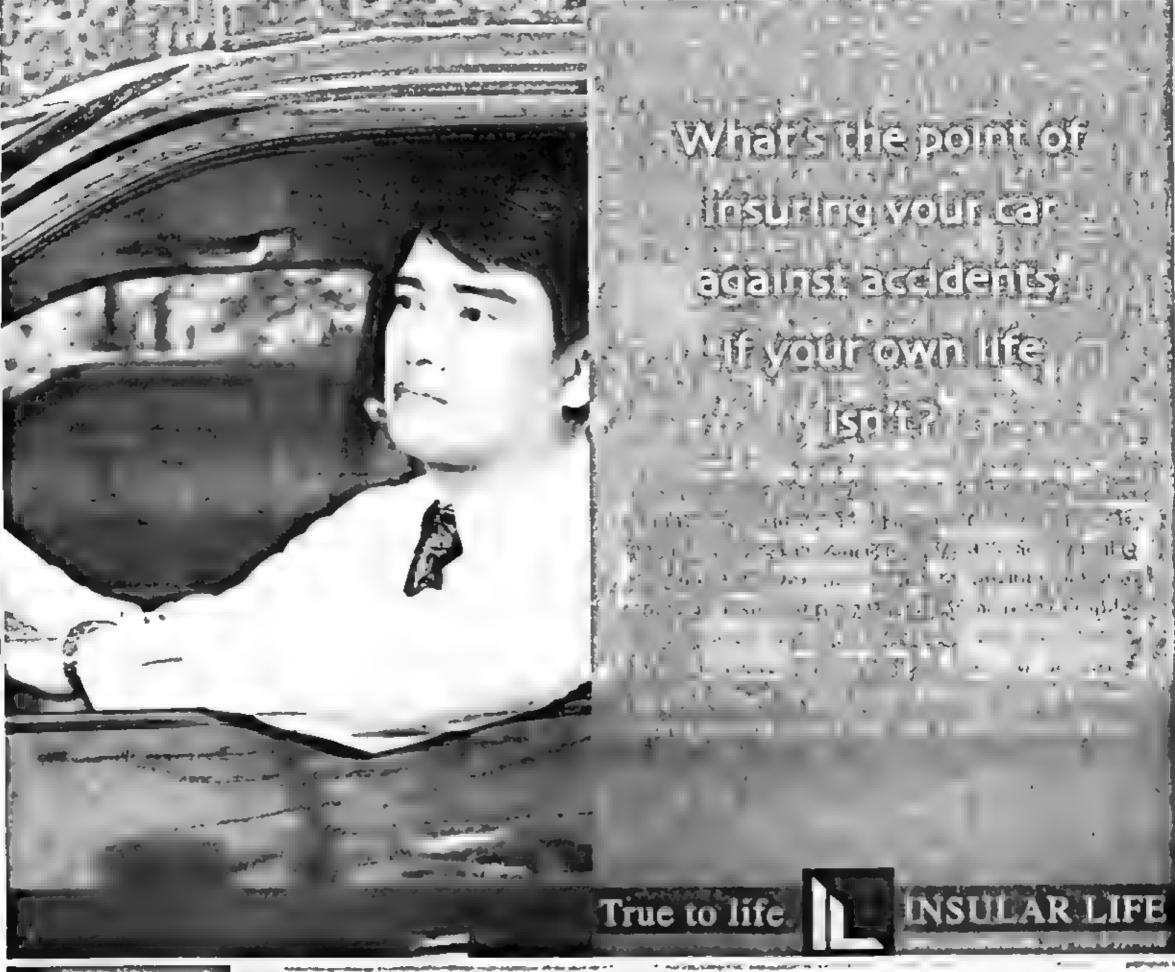
Also on display are the works of Emanuel Garibay, Fatima and Marcel Antonio, Michael Cacnio, Camille Ver Grace Taylor, Jun





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IT'S THE SECOND

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YMA BYAH T'MOG I

HOMEWORK.



BY JERRY SCOTT

BY TOM ARMSTRONG PUGAD BABOY



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BABY BLUES

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HOW DID MY LI'L PINK SOCK GET UNDER

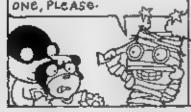
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

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ATOMO AND WEBOY

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UMM. . WEBON AND I DECIDED NEITHER ONE OF US WILL HELP MOUTAKE YOUR BANDAGES OFF. BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL 86 HERE BY YOUR SIDE PROVIDING YOU MORAL SUPPORT EVERY

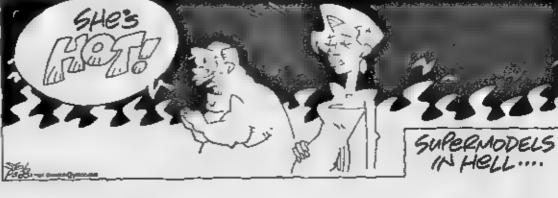




BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU SORN TODAY: You have a sympathetic nature. You are caring and kind. You also have excellent taste. You adapt well to changing situations. You don't fight them; you accept them and work to the best of your abilities. within these limitations. You have an important choice to make in the year ahead. You'll know what to do Birthdate of: Trina McGee, actress, Rosie Perez, actress, Jane Curtin, actress



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, you'll be more involved with enand having a good time. Your love

I fe mìght a so pick up Harmless flirtations bring you a laugh TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Relations

with parents, If they are with you, will improve in the next month. This is also a good time to undertake redecorating and improving where you live.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have a strong urge to make your everyday sur-

able. You might also discover just how much love there is in your everyday lite.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The next few weeks are favorable for business and all kinds of financial transac-

tions. Go forward with negotiations. You'll also want to buy things for yourself and loved ones.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): With Venus moving into your sign now, you make a fabulous

one. The next four weeks are pertect for socializing and making your peace with others.



activities.

the sun shines.)

ing pay off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In the next few weeks, you'll have an opportunity to learn

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In the month ahead, all group activities are beautifully fa-

vored! Expect enjoy-

SCORPID (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your luck is

improving! Parents,

teachers and people in

authority are impressed

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22

to Dec. 21): Opportuni-

your way now. Some of

ties for pleasure come

you will also discover

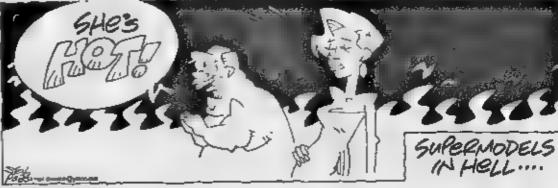
more about yourself by being alone. It's good to make friends with yourself. It's good to slow down a little.

ment through friends and group

with you in the month ahead (You

should definitely make hay while

how to make writing and publish-



BEN



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8Y JOMIKE TEJIDO

BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

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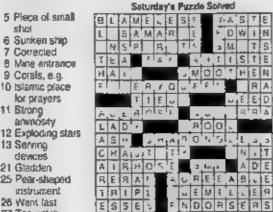
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By Eugene R. Pullenberger Houston, TX

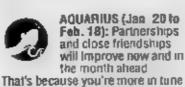


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CAPRICORN (Dec 22 to Jan. 19): Your ability to attract money, favors and assets is excellent in the month ahead Wealth comes to you either directly or through your partner. This is a good time to ask for a loan



with others. In fact, new love could enter your life (for some of you).

PISCES (Feb. 19 to

March 20): Your health Is improving. You feel pretty good about life, which is why you're more ready to help others and extend yourself on behalf of people.

MASAMA SA OZONE SUNOS NO MEA BASURANG STYRO





KIKO MACHINE

hany. ISANG EKSENM SA CLASS-ROOM BISING-BUSY ANG LAHAT SA KAKA DITINIDI NG PANIBAGONG LECTURE HE PROF, TAPOS YUNG KATASI MO, TEXT LANG MANG





SIGE NANG SIGE. MEATAKATAK TA'S ANG BADTRIP PR. EVERY 3 SECONDS TEXT PH ROJ SUA, O. MOSTATAKA KA MASA KAUMA KUNG ME BALAK SA'SO SYA NAGTATANONG KUNG ANO NA NAME MANARI. hay buhay -BUZ DUNY: NZNAI DUNKEZ BE FR (AND PAUL!) (SUING PLACHAM DAW) 74 ANY THUSICOL

LOVEKNOTS

JAJA, ANG HIRAP NG BUNHHOW ... BATH DA AKO JOWA, YAN NA

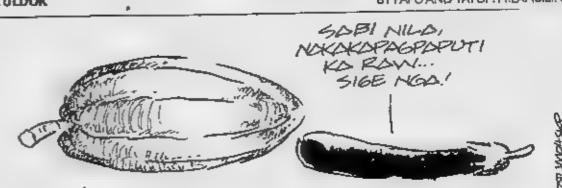




BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

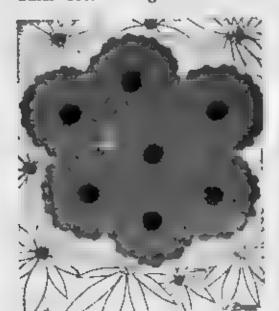
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



LIFESTYLE

Kid painters raise funds for Bantay Bata

LIFE is beautiful in the world of Cu-gether they came up with a col-eye for visual splendor na brothers Patrick, 12, and Simon, 8. In their desire to help Bantay Bata 163, a program of the ABS-CBN Poundation that aims to uplift the rights of children, the brothers took pines." up the brush and painted trees, fruits, flowers, and many of nature's other breathtaking wonders. To-



lection of 20 paintings, under the guidance of their uncle, Rachy Cuna-artist, painter, stylist and "floral architect of the Philip-

The paintings will be on exhibit as past of Kiddie Land at the three-day Shopping Carnival on Sept. 10, 11 and 12 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

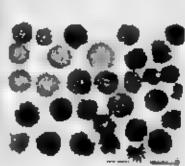
Patrick and Simon have been raised to appreciate all things bright and beautiful. Having traveled to many parts of the world, from Hong Kong to Tokyo, from Seoul to many parts of the United States, they have at such a young age acquired an

What's more, they have spent many a summer learning the craft, experimenting with oil, oil pastel and point to share with others through the canvas all that have captivated their imagination.

The shopping festival offers families a wide array of world-class products: home décor, furniture, food, fashion and appli-

At Kiddie Land, replete with kiddie rides, clowns and inflatable toys, an art corner will provide visiting children an opportunity to paint, draw, play and learn fun crafts. Patrick will be around to share their love of art. Parnck and Simon are gradeschoolers at La Salle-Zobel in Alabang, Muntinlupa.





Carlo Magno tackles ancient East in new abstracts

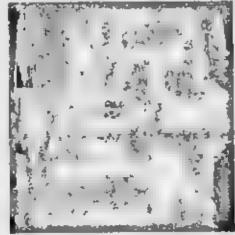
TOP abstractionist Carlo Magno's major show for 2004 opens on Sept. 11, at the 2nd Level of The Podium. Curated by Galerie Joaquin, "Transcendence" features 24 major works in acrylic.

"Transcendence" is inspired by the glorious kingdoms and ancient civilizations of the Near East and the For East The Near East was where cuneiform handwriting was developed and where the bronze and metal age made a distinct impact on civilization. Magno's works along this line are mainly in earth co.ors in various shades of brown, copper, mocha, beige and sienna.

The other half of the works are inspired by civilizations of the Far East, in particular ancient China, and are predominantly in red, the imperial color.

Notable pieces include "Glorious Kingdom 🗗 and "Glorious Kingdom II," both 48 x 48 done in mixed media, the 36 x 48 title piece "Transcendence," the 36 x 48 "Primordial Elements I" and the 48 x 36 "Primordial Elements II "

Call 7239253 or 7239418.



"GLORIOUS Kingdom" I



"GLORIOUS Kingdom" II



"ROSE Ash"



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"TOWN Fiesta," by Ferdie Montemayor

Artists of dystopia

By Constantino C. Tejero

THEME that hasn't ceased to fascinate artists and writers is the Unreal City. The vision is usually of a wasteland populated by semi-humans living a synthetic reality.

A version of this dystopia is Ronaldo Ruiz's "Virtual World," 13 pieces in mixed media (acrylic, computer hardware discards, fiber, sand) and 25 smaller pieces in acrylic, recently displayed in Renaissance Gallery at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluy-

Eight of the large pieces are composed of central processing units and motherboards mounted on canvases, textured with abaca fiber and sand, then painted with acrylic, in red, green, ochre, gray, black, blue, maroon.

These paintings are really reliefs on canvas. The imagery produced is that of a series of aerial shots of complexes of infrastructures, building compounds, or floor plans of a housing project, factories, depots, military installations, nuclear reactor plants.

This objectifies Rulz's concern with technology, urban congestion, an artificial world, the synthetic experience. It is a vision of cruel steel and concrete, empty of humanity

The gold parts of the microchips the artist has left unpainted, maybe to evoke the tiny points of light in the earth's populated areas one sees from an airplane at dusk-a faint sign of life.

By the artworks' titles one can deduce what the artist thinks of this kind of life and world-

"Red Alext," "Under Control," "The Border," "The Model," "White House," "The Project," "Rush-Rust."

While these painting reliefs verge between

the figurative and the abstract, Ruiz's paint-

Penetrating vision

ing proper is nonrepresentational.

He started as a figurative artist, aligning himself with the social realists. His usual subject then was the overseas Filipino workers, having himself worked for two years in Saudi Arabia and thus empathizing with these longsuffering people.

He professes admiration for Bosch, Michelangelo and other Renaissance artists, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Antipas Delotavo, Nune Alvarado, Ang Kiukok.

"I've been discovering my techniques by myself," he says. "I cannot really trace the influences, but I'm sure they're there."

What he is not sure is, when he is going back to figurative painting. "I want to grow in creativity. I'm just playing with my art. I'm constantly seeking innovative techniques, wanting to create art that is always

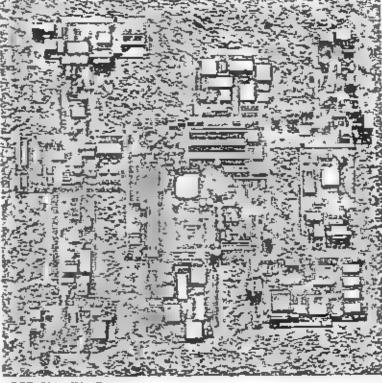
A Fine Arts graduate from University of the East, Ruiz was artist in residence at Artspace in Sydney, Australia. He was twice Jurors' Choice in the Philip Morris Philippine Art

Ruiz is also into performance art and installation. A young man with visual flair and penetraing vision, he is undoubtedly one of the most important Filipino artists today.



"VIRTUAL World," by Ronaldo Ruiz

It is a vision of cruel steel and concrete, empty of humanity



"RED Alert," by Ruiz

The vanishing image

Meanwhile, Ferdinand Montemayor seems to have made it his mission to record, phase by phase, the turning of his hometown into a wasteland. Depersonalization is increasingly occurring in his art.

A founding member of the Antipolo-based group Salingpusa, who studied painting at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, the artist has become known for hu-"Bayan" Series.

in his previous townscapes, he showed only buildings and silhouettes of human figures. Later, the billboards started taking over the landscape, jostling and facing one another in lieu of people. The presence of humans could be seen only as sketchy illustrations on those billboards.

The distancing effect was carried over in "Flestang Bayan," the artist's recent exhibit in Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk. These are five pieces in acrylic on canvas depicting crowds of people and clusters of buildings and rooftops, seen as panorama or bird's-eye view in a monochrome of magenta.

Although the scenes depicted are not necessarily the artist's hometown, and the flesta not specifically the Sumaka (suman, mangga, kastry) Maytime festivities of Antipolo, the theme of industrialization, overpopulation, urban development and blight threatening the Philippine countryside is still in place.

And here Montemayor has further increased his distancing effect, playing to the hilt the proverbial role of artist as God.

"Plaza" is an aerial view of buntings, rooftops, and a multitude of sketchy figures. One could see the church's belfry, but the scene could be an encampment of tents. The horizon is a curve, which could be an outline of mountain or the edge of the earth.

Tension and paradox

"Town Fiesta" is a panoramic view of the town as isthmus with the church as focal point, bordered on both sides by injets of the sea, and spreading out to a horizon spiked with tall buildings and cranes, which represent encreaching industrialization. The image is that of the globe, and the figures are getting smaller.

In "Province," the scene has become just bright points of light in the distance. In "City Fiesta," the lights are dimming.

Finally, in "Barrio Fiesta," the place is reduced to a dark haze in the horizon, as the image threatens toward abstraction.

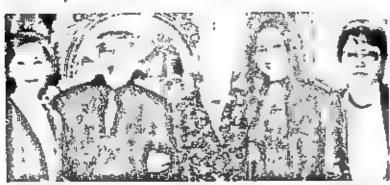
This then is the paradox in these fiesta scenes: They're populous but curiously without human personal nes, crowded but oddly cold.

Montemayor reveals he did the pieces at the height of the recent election campaign and during a heat wave, and the celebratory mood he expressed in a monochrome of ferodous hue.

"I started with mulncolor composition, pero masyadong magulo ang visual," he says. "I wanted a cohesive presentation. Gusto kong pahingaliin ang viewer."

To capture the sense of energy and excitement, the atmosphere of anxiety and menace, he used a vibrant red, specifically luminous redpink with alizarin crimson for binder or glaze.

"Tapos na tayo sa mabantot na kulay," he laughs. "Masarap gamitin ang masaya na color dahil masarap sa mata. It is very lively. Masaya ako 'pag makita ko. Ang images, marami naman 'yan, உ Ang kailangan, kung paano mo mabuhay ang .mage... But red is hard to handle. It is also the color of revolu-



ARTIST Tam P. Austria (in hat) recently visited the Czech Republic where he met Adelaine Mucha, the daughter-in-law of impressionist Alphonse Mucha, at the Mucha Museum. In photo are Philippine Ambassador Carmelita Salas, Austria, Adelaine Mucha, Sistine Mucha, and Mary Divine Austria.



*PENAFRANCIA FESTIVAL," by Pancho M. Piano



GALERIE Y features an exhibit by the Art Co. and the Visualists on Sept. 10-20 at the 4/L Megamail A. Participating artists are Mona Lisa Arion, Angelo Baldemor, Marilen Bantug, Cristina Cinco, Giovanni, Herzon, Lulu Lopex Katigbak, Marilyn Ramos, Rhea, Janet Santos, Becky Villegas and Jenny Villegas. Above is a work by Herzon de la Rosa, Call 6342704.

Honrado Fernandez at Avellana, Severino at West, Medina at Finale, Ingco at Astra

HONRADO Fernandez mounts his 5th solo exhibit. until Sept. 30 at Avellana Art Gallery, 2680 F.B. Harrison, Pasay City. Titled "5/55," the show features the artist's three-dimensional works. Call 8338357

LINO Severino's ideas on what lies beyond continue to pour in "Eternity II." The exhibit is on view at West Gallery in SM Megamall on Sept. 9-21 Through abstract collages, Severino manages to incorporate his Christian (alth **VISUAL ARTS** ento his compositions.

FINALF Art Gallery showcases Lui Medina's "Peep" until Sept. 12 at the Artwalk, 4/L Megamall A. The artist's oil paintings are based on photographs that she took.

GERRY Inpos's "Propaganda" at the Galerie Astra. (LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St. [formerly Reposol, Makatir, until Sept. 17) defies the common conception of the abstract as mere beauty, Ingco himself says he's a conceptual artist rather than an abstractionist, who puls more attention to ideas. He fills his canvases with earth colors similar to prehistoric pantings to depict primal consciousness. Call 8903988 pr

CHRIS Daniel exhibits his first collection of clay art at the 6th Annual Student Exhibition of the Petryjohn-Mendoza Pottery School, ongoing until Sept. 8 at Art Space, 3/L Glorietta 4, Makati. His pieces include platters, vase and sculpture.

book-repair workshop with Loreto Apilado of the

Cottage Industry Technology Center as facilita-

tor The Lopez Memorial

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Mile Barde, Ronald Achacoso,

Museum is at the G/F

Benpres Building, Ex-

enua. Call 6312417

THE LOPEZ Memorial Museum will hold a THE Vargas Museum presents The Sedimentation of the Mind Sept. 30 Participating artists are

Johnny Alcazaren, Bert Antonio, Arry Aragon, Fefor Bicolos, Pablo Biglang-Awa, Annie Cabigting, Patty Eustaquio, Geraldine Javier, Jonathan Olazo, Bernie Pacquing, Sandra Palomar, Dan Raralio, Joseph Serrano, Yasmin Sison, Maria Taniguchi, Jay Ticar, Treck Valdizno, Roma Valles, Alvin Villaruel and MM YL

THE WOMEN members of The Film Artist Group will hold "All About Her, A Women's Lifestyle Exhibition and Bazaar," on Sept. 18-19 at The Forum, PICC.

CCP Complex, Pasay City. Featured artists are Rosanna Roces, Lani and Flackel Lobangen, Ruby Rodriguez, Nadia Montenegro, Criseida Volks, Evangeline Pascual and Maria Isabel Lopez.

GALERIA Fernando Artes stages a seven-manshow at One Luna Litestyle Center, Eastwood City Cyber Park, Libis, OC. "Art Parade" features Thomas Daquioag Raymond Go, Dyun Conanan, Marnie Corpuz, Allan Sycip, Valerie Valero and Sam Penaso On view until Sept. 20 are landscapes, seascapes, rural genre, flowers, gardens, abstract paintings, mother and child

THE DRAWING Room presents Alfredo Juan Aquilizan's "Błack/White" until Sept 21 at the G/F, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropostan Ave.,

"5/55," by Honrado

R. Fernandez



"PEER" by Lui Medina

Makati. The exhibit is a series of achromatic works selected from previous installations, drawings, paintings and objects from 1996 to the pre-

THE ALCOVE will be d Gorng Digital: Photography and the Computer on Sept. 20, 22, 24, 27 and 29, 6-9 p.m. Low Light Level Photography Workshop will be held on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2. The workshops will be held at Filipinas Heritage Jbrary along Makati Avenue. Ayala Triangle, Maicati, Call 759-3371/8921801

2004 Philippine International Art Fair features Korean artists

A DELEGATION of artists from Korea are in Manila to grace the 2004 Philippine International Art Fair, which opened on Aug. 24 at the GSIS Museum in Pasay City.

Among them are Na-Ra Kim, Chul Kyung Ha, Sun-Young Kim, Young-Sam Kim, Cheol-Soo Kim, Dal-Soo No, Jae-Soon Roh, Il-Yong Park, Chong-Ho Park, Hak-Kyun Sun, Chin Yu, Nam-Chan Lee, Myun-Eun Lee, Young-Gil Lee, Young-Nan Chang and Gil-Soon Chor.

Officers and some members of the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) exhibit works alongside those of the 54 Korean contangents in this year's art fair "Asia Art Festivas."

The event was organized by the AAP in cooperation with the Korea Fine Art Association and the GSIS Museum. The show runs

dfords the best view of Luneta Park and Agrifina Circle

Pavilion under its ramy day "Homespun" package and surprisingly enjoyed the delight

On a clear day, we saw the old Finance Building, Post Office, City Hall, National Museum and, of course, Luneta Park.

ful view from the top floor.

It didn't take us long to map out our Sunday innerary, the best day in the week to rediscover any old city by foot,

As we sat down to enjoy our in-room Filipino set breakfast, we began to realize where some pro-cultural heritage groups were coming from when they accused a recently built mail of being an ugly structure.

Side by side Manila's old structures, the build- all guests, especially to long time residents

ing does look monstrous, a giant slab of concrete that looks like a factory from an aerial view.

Manula Pavilion, of course, was the old Manila Hilton, built in 1969 by the Delgado family. The hotel has undergone several changes in name over the years, from Hilton to Pavilion to Holiday Inn, to today's Pavilion.

Soon, it will again change names, as management has been taken over by the sixth floor Gatchalian family of Cebu, which operates the Waterfront chain of hotels.

According to the hotel staff, renovations, set to start soon, will be implemented in phases. That should be good news to its loy-



FURNISHED room overlooking Manila panorama

like artist Federico Alcuaz, who stays on the

New carpets, curtains and beddings are just icing on the cake, however. The view from the hotel is the real gem.

"Homespun," Manila Pavilion Hotel's rainy day package, is available at P2,000 net until Sept. 30. Call 5261212 locals 2333 or 2343.

Filart's nudity, Dela Cruz's spirituality ...

By Gino Dormiendo Contributor

By James P. Ong

TEARS ago, when a group of culturati

other things, the building's unique location

and how it was the only hotel that enjoyed a

It turns out that, all the while, there's been

another establishment also offering a beauti-

ful and almost breathtaking view of Manila,

the way the city's architect, Daniel Burnham,

We recently spent a weekend at the Manila

perfect view of historic Luneta Park.

perhaps meant it to be.

was lobbying for the preservation of

the old Luneta Hotel, it cited, among

Contributor

THE FEMALE nude may not be a totally unrewarding subject to pursue, given the vast potential of the genre and its power to express timely and significant statements about contemporary womanhood.

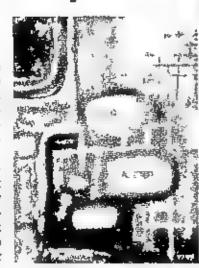
It is in this light that the recent works of Carlos D. Filart can be best apprecated. They offer a panoply of beautiful attributes of woman, from the soft contours of the female body to the diaphanous fabrics that best highlight her femininity.

The show's main inspiration is ostensibly the Japanese kimono. Titled "Kimono: Clothing the Muse" (Galerie Joaquin, Lower Ground, The Podium, Ortigas Center, until Sept. 8), the exhibit is bannered by portraits in mixed media of women captured in various poses and moods, the wildly erotic being the dominant element and the infinitely rich mosaic of fabrics as the most distinctive feature of the works.

A veteran advertising executive and art director before he decided to work full-time as artist, Flart demonstrates his rare ability to mix and match fabric designs and textures, reinventing the kimono's wild turns from cloak to headdress, from sorong to backdrop material.

Though Filart's women are in various stages of nudity, it is the fabric that easily steals the show, and the faces could have been simply blurred or suggested, rather than well-delineated or worked out.

The other state of works is superior in both composition and impression. Done in watercolor and mixed media, they show the



"OPEN Doors than Barriers," by Arthur Dela Cruz



"ETERNAL Ride," by Arthur Dela Cruz

the artist does not feel constricted, and the kimono also ceases to be a decorative motif or arti-

The women are also more at ease in their environment. It would not have been a bad idea if the artist had himself infused a liberating sense of sexuality female in a larger milieu Here, Into his subject, rather than re-



"A FISHY Engagement," by Arthur Dela Cruz

main pitifully confined to mere physical allure.

True to form

The works of Arthur Dela Cruz, on the other hand, have remained true to form, reflecting the artist's deep sense of spirituality, which, in turn, confront the bigger theological issues concerning man and his destiny.

A Sacred Heart Brother for 11 years before leaving the congregation a year before his final vows, Dela Cruz started out as a figurative painter at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design before he turned to abstraction.

Through this show of recent works titled "Soulscape," (NC-CC Mall, Davao City), the artist had personally invited me to witness the show's opening, which made it possible for me to revisit the city after 20 long years. The organizers were the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, and the guests of honor were prominent city folk, but the special performers were children from the city's poor and depressed areas, who would receive the proceeds from the

As my gracious hosts, the Brothers, led by Bro. Noelvic Deloria, made sure my stay

would be pleasant and comfortable—and a culturally enriching ехрепевсе.

The artist's recent works have evolved steadily from his last outing. He has become more expressive in his brushwork, and the works are now visually stronger and more daring.

The real challenge for the artist has been to translate into visual forms ideas or concepts that are essentially abstract. But he has passed muster, relying on his admirable use of neo-colors and biomorphic forms that symbolize some deep-seated religious beliefs.

What is even more admirable is the rare sensibility at work, which is neither preachy nor proselytizing, but just as aes-

thetically absorbing. Deeply rooted in the concrete realities of his milieu and doubly inspired by his strong spiritual foundation, Dela Cruz is a fine example of the regional artist whose concerns and insights are truly reflected in his art, a deep kind of spirituality fusing with all-too essential humanity, a combination that is truly rare to find nowadays

E-mail author at gdormen-

Metro mag features more 'lutong bahay' South **Beach Diet menus**

HAVE you lost those 12 pounds yet? Metro Magazine dares you to maintain your new weight-and still lose some more-as it follows up on its hit "Lutong Bahay" Guide to South Beach Diet, last month's talk of the town.

In its September 2004 issue, Metro offers readers an easy-toprepare lutong bahay menu for Phases 2 and 3 of the hit "right carbs-right fat" diet created by Dr. Arthur Agatson

Once you're down to your ideal weight, it's time to exercise and, if you have the time and money for it, go for mesotherapy. The medical procedure, invented in France in 1952, claims to do what liposuction can't: Get rid of even the most stubborn cellunte.

In the issue, find out why mesotherapy works for Pinays like Zsa Zsa Padilia and Lorna To-

Also in the September issue: 10 pages of never-seen photos from the 40-year reign of José "Pitoy" Moreno, the Fashion czar of Asia.

Must-haves in the closet: molten dresses, luxe bags and glittery brooches.



Plus, hot off the press the sexiest photos from the Bench "Understatement" party

Not to miss. Cover gir, Korina Sanchez talking about having it all-a high-rating TV show, beautiful home, great catch of a boyfriend-in a time of grief (she recently lost her parents), how Manua's young and moneyed are indulging in cocaine; and how to live without a man by designing your private space.

Call 4152671



JOHN Maxwell, author of the New York Times bestselling book "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership," is coming to Manila for back-to-back mega seminars at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 15 and the PICC on Sept. 16. Organized by Salt and Light Ventures, "John Maxwell Live in Manila" is sponsored by the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, PLDT, Team LBC, Fitness First, INQ7. Hewlett-Packard Philippines Corp., Print Town and Microdata, For tickets, call the Pilipinas Telesery hotline, 7371569, from 8 a.m.- 10 p.m. Also call 8302191/8132732.



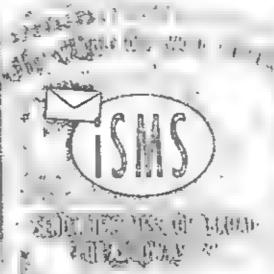
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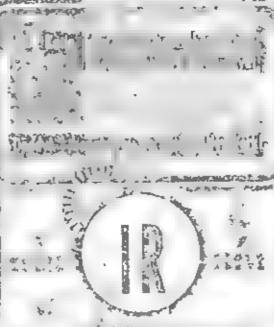














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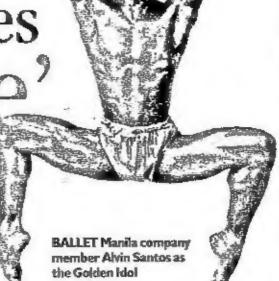
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WHAT exactly is "La Bayadere"? A three-act ballet set in India, this Petipa/Chabukiani /Minkus masterpiece tells the story of Nikiya, a bayadere or temple dancer who is caught in the middle of a forbidden tove for the warrior Solor and the unrequited love of the High Brahmin.

Forced to wed Gamzatti, the Rajah's

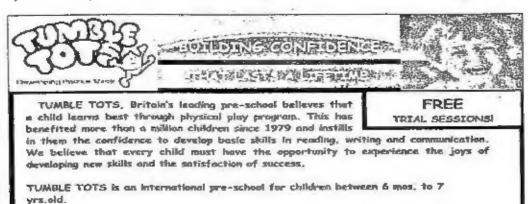
daughter, Solor watches helplessly as Nikiya is murdered during the celebra-

An opium-manifested dream reunites the two lovers in one of the most demanding acts in Russian ballet-the evening's finale set in the Kingdom of the Shades.



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IF HOOSE SPANNING (A 1965-1964)

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LIFESTYLE

The prime of Liesl Batucan, actress

By Zeneida Amador Contributor

ABOUT 11 years ago, Liesl Batucan was a young, energetic and good-looking girl who had a good job at SGV.

But one day, she joined a play, and that was it. She was bitten by that virus from which there is no escape—the theater bug.

Lies thought long and hard about it, eventually making up her mind. With the consent of her very supportive parents, she resigned from SGV and went fulltime into theater via Repertory Philippines.

She followed her heart. But heart was not all she had to give. Blessed with a keen intelligence, great determination, a sensitivity of feeling and enormous talent, she poured everything into her new and, as she confirms now, everlasting love.

I watched her once at a rehearsal giving her all. Afterwards I told her, "You're enjoying yourself, aren't you."

Her answer was, "I just love theater. But I also feel a great responsibility toward it."

made her take all sorts of jobs in the theater, aside from acting and

understudying. She has been assistant director many times, she teaches at our workshops, and when Baby Barredo and I feel that some actors are lagging behind, she lends a hand with extra coaching, especially for the newer, less experienced hopefuls.

Her 11 years at Rep have not all been days of wine and roses. There were the usual disappointments, heartbreaks, frustrations. But she just went on, taking small parts, any part assigned to her, but always learning, learning, learning. She honed herself daily, taking the good with the bad, growing, maturing at her craft all

Second nature

Now, discipline, focus, mining a text for meaning, digging deep into the subtleties and pregnancies of text, making the lines come alive, a sense of vulnerability, and creating a character, have all become second nature to her.

A colleague in the theater says of Liesl: "She's never just Liesl. She's always whoever she's play-

And the British actors from the This sense of responsibility has Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts who came here recently to give workshops to local actors were so

This Rep stalwart followed her heart by opting for theater rather than a corporate job. But heart isn't all she has to give

amazed at her, they kept plying her with questions. About her background, her experience, where she learned her craft. They couldn't believe they could find such a one here.

Liesl Batucan may not be a "star" in the way the word is understood hereabouts. But she is certainly an actress. And I never use the word loosely.

I remember, a stage mother came to me once to ask if I could train her daughter who passionately wanted to become a star. I answered that she probably got the wrong company. We do not train "stars" at Rep.

We train actors and actresses. There is a world of difference.



UESL as one of the wives in the farce, "Run for Your Wife"

Liesl is now playing Pinocchio" seamlessly and will also play "Portia" (alternating with equally talented Ana Bitong) in our production of "The Merchant of Venice." What two roles (Pinocchio and Portia) could be more different. But Liesl does both with ease and aplomb. She is, you see, an actress.



SHE will alternately play the role of Portia and Nerissa in Rep's upcoming Shakespeare production of "The Merchant

I do not recommend the long, hard road to "actress" for everybody. Those in search of fame and fortune would find it a drag. But once in a great while, somebody comes along who knows the difference between being a showbiz star and a genuine actress-and appreciates and shows that dif-



IN the stage adaptation of "Dracula"

Zeneida Amador is the President and co-founder of Repertory Philippines, the company that trained the likes of Lea Salonga, Wilson, Monique Lauchengco-Yulo, Miguel Faustmann and a host of other respected theater thespians in the country. For information about Repertory Philippines, call 8870710.

Faith, hope and prejudice

By Cora Llamas Contributor

THE ROMAN Catholic Church still stands as a beacon of hope and stability to its millions of fol-

Like children under the shadow of tough but concerned parents, the devoted may question teaching or behavior, rant against dogma, even walk away for a time to get breathing space-but in the end, return, even if at a distance.

One may leave home, but never really and truly disowns

But if the Church is a light to a dark world now plagued by family breakdown, a crash-andburn lifestyle that blurs ethical lines, and growing doubts about once revered social institutions, what form should it take?

A lighthouse that stands immovable, left unchanged equally by the assault of storms or the welfare of the population living beside it? Or should it be a userfriendly lamp, easily carried by those who need it, the volume of its beam adjusted to the degree of darkness?

That is the deeper issue explored by New Voice Company's new production of Diane Shaffer's "Sacrilege."

The gauntlet is hurled by Sister Grace (Tami Monsod), the nun who runs a New York crisis center. She has the heart of Mother Theresa, the feel-good sensibilities of Oprah, and the never-say-die courage of a battle-scarred general. To her priestly superiors' horror, she outspokenly endorses sex education in the classroom and passes condoms around in pubIs it "sacrilege" for a nun to become

a priest? New Voice Company's new

play examines the issue

lic, all delivered with her singular wit and charisma.

But Grace eventually crosses the line when she asks that nuns like herself be admitted into the priesthood. Her reasons sound logical and sensible: the diminishing number of male clergy. the competence of the nuns, the importance Jesus Himself gave

Her opponents on the other side see it differently. Says Paul Holme, who plays one of the priests at her hearing, "The Church is the anchor of society. The changes that Grace is advocating] are the beginnings of an avalanche that will make that society give way. She is a loose саппоп.

Monsod herself describes her character as "very impulsive, impatient, and stubborn," but nevertheless a "Joan of Arc who sees the prohibition of women into the priesthood as an injustice."

Patriarchal power

One single lady going against centuries of tradition and "one of the last fortresses of patriarchal power," as one cast member puts it, may not sound like a fair fight. But director Rito Asilo maintains that "there are really no bad or good guys here." It is a heated war between strong individuais who passionately believe in

what they are fighting for.

Caught in the middle is Cardinal King, the American Church primate who happens to be Grace's close friend and former mentor. The most poignant and powerful verbal duels in the script happen between these two characters who feel betrayed by, and yet cannot quite abandon, the other.

Leo Rialp, who plays King, describes his character's position, "He believes that the Church is at the front line of big issues like capital punishment, euthanasia, and human rights. They have to take a firm stand."

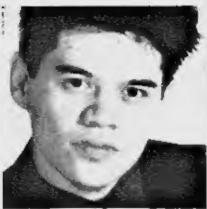
Asilo says, though, that the play is more than just a politicalreligious epic. Personal dynamics that mirror the human beings caught in this maelstrom provide the human face. Neither Grace nor King comes out of this war untouched.

Another conflicted figure is Ramon (Jamie Wilson), the new young priest passionately in love with his God and his flock. Representing the new generation of clergy, he is torn between his duty to his religious superiors and his friendship with and gratitude to Grace, who picked him up from the slums and set him on the path to redemption.

By play's end, Grace's work is just beginning, as her reallife counterparts and antagonists are still wrestling with the questions and solutions in real

Holme comments that this probably reflects Shaffer's own take on things. The issues are current and ongoing. [The author is saying that] Grace's battle has to be, and can still be,

New Voice Company's "Sacrilege" runs at the Republic of Malate Theater Sept. 3-11. Call 8966695 and 8990630.



JAMIE Wilson





Ballet Manila stages 'La Bayadere' From page CI

"La Bayadere' is first and foremost a love story. What the Filipino public loves to see in television's soap operas today the classic love triangle, plots and conspiracies, murder and intrigue-it's all there!," says Ballet Manila artistic director Lisa Macuja Elizaide.

Restaging the ballet are Russian People's artist Sergey Vikulov and Russian Vaganova Academy's Tatiana Udalenko-

Starring as the tragic heroine Nīkiya, Lisa Macuja Elizalde has performed the ballet during its full-length Philippine premiere in 1987. Since then, she has also performed "La Bayedere" in stages across Russia-with a special performance during the 1992 International Arts Festival in Krasnoyarsk, where she was given a 20-minute standing ovation by the Siberian audi-

Also starring in the production is Russian guest artist Maxim Chashchegorov, from the Marinsky Ballet, as Solor, with BM's talented Francis Cascano as his alternate. No less **BALLET Manila company** members Christine Rocas as Nikiya and Francis Cascaño as Solor in the full-length ballet "La Bayadere"

than three Princess Gamzattis--Marian Faustino, Sandra Huang and Mylene Aggabao-will be featured, with 18-year-old baby ballerina Christine Rocas alternating

with Macuja as Nikiya. "La Bayadere" goes onstage in Aliw Theater on Sept. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Call 5255967 4043086,

Love poetry reading, musical show mark 5th year of UST writing center

malanta will be featured in a poetry reading and a discussion of her works on Sept. 10 at 3

The event, "Love Woman: The Naked Truth About Ophelia Dimalanta," is sponsored by the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (CCWS) to mark its fifth anniversary, it will be held at the CCWS conference room at the UST St. Raymund's (AB-

Commerce) Building.

PREMIER love poet Ophelia Di- viewed by journalist-poet Ramil and Sciences. Digal Gulle, Later, there will be a panel discusson by poets Cirilo F. Bautista, Lourd de Veyra and Nerisa Guevara, and an

> Readings of Dimalanta's poems will be made by campus poets, including Angelo Suarez, winner of the Unesco Struga Literary Prize of Macedonia and the National Book Award,

open forum.

UST writers will hold a musical program "Chords and Dischords," on Sept. 11 at 5 Dimalanta will be inter- p.m. at the UST Museum of Arts

The writing staff of the USTCCWS do not only write but are also involved in creative activities outside their writing, like De Veyra, a prize-winning writer and poet, who is also a recording artist, musician, and front man of the Radioactive Sago Project band.

Providing real musical treat are special guests, pianist Greg Zuniega and soprano Luz Morete. The public is invited to both events. Call 7313101 loc. 8282 (Tuesday-Saturday).



TAMi Monsod

noticed that my father started getting weak. He got easily tired and appeared so drained at the end of the day. He also lost weight," shares Eena Kanapi, a 32-year-old advertising executive. "My father looked haggard and older than his years. He had no appetite and did not like to eat. It became frustrating sometimes. I just wanted him to be healthy."

Are you caring for your parents or an elderly relative? Or maybe you are experiencing the effects of aging like Eena's father? Do you have the same concerns on losing appetite and feeling weak? Do not worry. Aging is inevitable but maintaining strength is also possible with good nutrition.

Eena can attest to how providing complete nutrition through supplementation changed her father's life. "After giving my father a meal supplement, he started eating well. He developed a good appetite. His weight gain was noticeable after 3 weeks. Supplementation gave him more strength. Now, my father has optimism. He believes in himself again - that even at 60 years old, he can still do things."

What makes you feel weak as you age?

As you grow older, your skeletal muscle mass decreases and your body fat increases.1 These physiologic changes of aging make you feel weak. The elderly experience decreased muscle strength and activity levels. Most of them become easily tired and they are not as physically active as before.

The weakness associated with aging is aggravated by low dietary food intake, particularly of protein-rich foods.3

Malnutrition may be undetected in the elderly because its symptoms can be mistaken as part of the natural consequences of growing old. Nutritional intervention may be helpful.

Insufficient protein in the diet results to further loss of lean muscle tissue.3

Inadequate supply of nutrients not only weakens the elderly but it also increases their risk of developing malnutrition. However, this risk is not usually recognized nor anticipated. It is hard to detect the symptoms of malnutrition among the elderly. The onset is slow and insidious and may mimic the normal changes of aging."

Why are the elderly at risk of developing malnutrition?

According to Dr Timothy Kwok, an associate professor of Medicine in Hong Kong, decreased food intake among the elderly puts them at risk of developing malnutrition. Old people tend to eat less because of the physiological, psychological and socioeconomic changes that accompany aging.

Physiological changes. The elderly lose their ability to taste and enjoy food because of decreased taste buds and diminished smell sensation.5 Some may have dental problems that make chewing difficult. They experience early satiety due to the changes in the stomach and the decline of

feeding signals from the brain.2 Age-related changes in the stomach also prevent them from properly digesting and absorbing essential nutrients from the food they eat.5 Diet alone is unable to provide their nutritional needs.

Psychological changes. Sometimes, Joneliness and depression in the elderly cause loss of appetite. These may be brought about by loss of spouse, family members and friends.

Socioeconomic changes. Some elderly persons hesitate to communicate their dietary concerns. They do not want to be an economic burden to their families. They eat whatever food is available, though it may not meet their nutritional needs.

What are the other factors that affect food intake in the elderly?

Older people have higher prevalence of chronic diseases that include hypertension, cancer, arthritis and diabetes mellitus.' Such diseases restrict their dietary intake and often require them to lose weight. Dietary restrictions together with inadequate nutrient intake can be detrimental to their health. Most of the elderly may also need

multiple medications that can affect appetite and absorption of certain nutrients.

What happens when the elderly suffer from malnutrition?

Or Kwok explained that malnutrition in the elderly causes weakness, constipation, osteoporosis and anemia. Moreover, malnourished elders have impaired immunity and healing. They easily become sick and slowly recover. They also have poor memory and impaired cognitive function.

What can be done to avoid these conditions?

Optimal nutrition should be provided to the elderly population even before they manifest symptoms of malnutrition. A dietary supplement that provides all the nutritional needs of the body may be added to the diet. The protein content should be complete and easy to absorb. This will help the body combat the effects of aging. Furthermore, this guarantees physical and mental wellness in the elderly, making them healthy and strong to enjoy life.

Timothy Kwok, MD, FRCP, MBChB, is an associate professor of Medicine at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong. He is also a consultant in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he attends mostly to chronically Ill patients.

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